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MEMOIRS
OF THE
Amours, Intrigues, and Adventures
OF
Charles Augustus Fitz-Roy,
DUKE OF GRAFTON,
WITH
Miss PARSONS.

Interspersed with
A faithful Account of Miss PARSONS'S
Amours with other Persons of Distinction.

a novel—



LONDON:

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A. Parsons.

This Book is a mere fiction
full of falsehoods, written by
an author very illiterate and
so ignorant of every thing
respecting the parties that among
other gross blunders he mistakes
both the name of the D. of Grafton's
country seat and ~~the~~ the County
where it is situated see pag 118



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FAITHFUL MEMOIRS

Of the Celebrated

Miss Annabella Parsons,

Late Mistress to the

***** of *****



NNABELLA PARSONS,

the heroine of this history,
was the daughter of a mas-
ter Taylor, in Bond-street;
a man, who tho' not rich, had where-
withal to live comfortably, and give
his children a genteel education. An-
nabella was the delight of her pa-
rents; her beauty first attracted their
fondness, and the sprightly wit she
discovered in proportion as she grew
up, served to increase it. Being en-
dowed with the most distinguishing
talents, her parents resolved to spare

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no cost to procure her every accomplishment of which her mind seemed susceptible. At fifteen years old, she spoke the French and Italian languages with so great propriety, that she was often mistaken for a native of those countries. She danced, sung, and played on the spinnet to admiration. Her father therefore resolved she should marry no tradesman, saying that a woman with such valuable endowments, was a treasure no plebeian ought to possess. His exalted notions of gentility perfectly coincided with his daughters inclinations: She, who scarce condescended to speak to the servant who attended her, could not stoop so low as to fix her heart on a husband, whose bread must depend on the complaisance with which he treated every one, tho' ever so much beneath him, who frequented his shop. The ideas she had conceived of her own excellency,

cy, the flattering hope she entertained of making a figure in high life, made her firmly resolve not to listen to any man's addresses, who, (if not a nobleman) could not at least allow her an equipage. All her equals were offended at her pride, and those who would have esteemed themselves happy in the possession of so much beauty, rejoiced that they were despised by her, as they clearly foresaw how much her thirst after nobility, and the scorn with which she treated those who were not born to a title, would embitter that happiness which ought ever to be the companion of the conjugal state. That nothing might be wanting to complete her education, they resolv'd to send her to Paris, under the care of a governess, a native of that city, and allowed her an income much superior to their fortune, which involved them in difficulties they never

afterwards surmounted. The reader may easily imagine what an effect the brilliancy of the French court, the cringing complaisance of the gentlemen, and the eager desire the ladies shewed to have the honour of her acquaintance, must have on the mind of Annabella. She was in raptures at the number of billet-doux she constantly received. To see a lover fall prostrate at her feet, uttering oaths and imprecations never to rise again, but fall a martyr to her beauty, unless she would indulge him with her hand; to hear of duels fought on her account, so enchanted her imagination, as made her with never to wake from the golden dream. She studiously concealed her obscure birth, and pretended that she was a lady of high rank, who had run away from her parents, to avoid marrying one she could never love; and always refused to discover

cover her real name and quality; in order to carry on the deceit with greater security. In this she was assisted by her tutoress, who hoped to be well rewarded for her secrecy, whenever the young lady became a duchess or a countess. Among the rest of her admirers, there was one, to whose protestations of love she seemed to pay more attention than to all the rest. He was about 25 years old, of a genteel address, and every way qualified to merit the good graces of any woman of less vanity than her, whom in the transports of his love, he called the empress of his soul. He was a native of Naples, and by the death of his father, a rich wine merchant of that city, had inherited a plentiful fortune, which in about three years time he had run through, and to avoid the horrors of a prison, with which he was threatened by his creditors, fled to Paris,

where he turned sharper, and was often indebted to his wit to procure him a dinner. He had for some time considered Annabella as his prey, but could not devise any means to execute his design of drawing her in to marry him, intending to retrieve his broken fortune with the large portion he imagined she had. After several projects which he revolved in his mind, he at length hit on a scheme, which at first seemed to promise great success. Being convinced there was no access to her to be hoped for, unless he appeared in the character of a man of quality, he resolved to approach her under that title. To this end, he bespoke several suits of cloaths, the richest that could be made, hired lodgings in the genteelst quarter of the town, took into his pay a number of servants, to all of whom he gave new liveries, ordered a superb equipage to be made
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and had every thing else suitable to the dignity he had assumed. He easily found credit with the different artificers, who were very ready to trust him, as he had promised to pay them the day of his marriage, without even examining their bills. Thus equipped, and concealing his true name, he went every day to court, appeared at all publick places, and took every opportunity of ogling her wherever he saw her. She, struck with his brilliant appearance, was very anxious to know who that fine gentleman was, who, as her vanity made her believe, was so deeply in love with her, and resolved to let no opportunity slip of giving him to understand that she was as much taken with him as he was with her. How to bring about an interview, was the grand difficulty: to write to him was too indelicate a step. She therefore consulted her gover-

nante, who having been a woman of intrigue in her youth, was best qualified to give her advice. It was agreed on between them that they must first find out where he lodged, and then contrive some stratagem either to draw him to their house, or lay him under a necessity of inviting them to his, and this, as it were, by accident. To effect this, one Sunday, having dressed herself in her finest cloaths, she went to church, accompanied by her old tutoress. Her lover, as impatient as she for an opportunity of speaking to her, was there also; there being a great number of people, and the weather very hot, she fainted away, and was with difficulty carried out into the air. Her Adonis followed her as fast as the crowd would permit him, and just arrived as she recovered: The sight of him filled her with so much pleasure that she was near fainting again.

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Overjoyed at so favourable a rencontre, he resolved to make the best use he could of it, and therefore was very officious in recovering the distressed lady from her indisposition. When she was come to herself, he insisted on waiting on her to her coach, which she with difficulty consented to, and in return for his civilities, condescended to let him, at his earnest desire, kiss her hand at parting. One of his footmen was ordered to dodge her home, while he repaired to his lodgings, and wrote the following bombastic letter, which he sent her the next morning.

“ Queen of beauty, and empress
of my soul,

“ Yesterday’s interview has kindled a flame in my breast which neither time nor absence can ever extinguish. I feel it every moment encreasing to that degree, that I shall

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soon

soon fall a victim to your celestial charms. O! divine creature, 'tis from you alone I expect, or hope relief. You cannot, will not despise the earnest request of a poor mortal, who is dying for love of your beauteous self. Pity your expiring slave, and let him rejoice that you condescend to compassionate his sufferings. If you should still be cruel, and refuse to listen to the cries of woe, the sword shall instantly put an end to the miserable life of, Jeronimo the wretched, de la Poretta.

This letter, though her heart thrilled with joy at the receipt of it, she did not think proper to answer in quite so favourable a manner as the writer of it expected. She was unwilling to drive him to despair, altho' at the same time she gave him no farther room to hope, than was

consistent with the decorum every woman, who values her character, is obliged to observe. She therefore gave him leave to visit her, provided he did not abuse that liberty, by exceeding the bounds of decency and good manners. Transported with this answer, he addressed her a second time in terms, which the most piercing understanding could not suspect of deceit, signifying his resolution of dying, rather than give her the least cause of complaint. A meeting was fixed at her lodgings, three days after, whither the marquis (as he called himself) went, attended only by one servant. For greater privacy, he entered by the garden door, and, that every thing might be conducted with the greatest secrecy, she dispensed with her servant's attendance on that occasion, and suffered only her governante to be present. She began the con-

versation, by saying, " she hoped he
 would not entertain a false opinion
 of her virtue from her consenting to
 this interview, which gratitude for
 his polite behaviour, when she faint-
 ed away in the church, had induced
 her to permit; that she was sensible
 the censorious world would construe
 her conduct in this respect into a
 want of delicacy, and, as she valued
 her reputation above every thing
 else, she could not bear the thoughts
 of becoming the talk of the whole
 city, which would certainly be the
 consequence, if ever it should be
 known, that she admitted visits from
 men of his rank, who could not be
 supposed to frequent her house with-
 out some design on her virtue." He
 begged of her to be under no ap-
 prehensions on that account, for as
 his intentions were honourable, she
 might with the greatest safety allow
 him to come to see her; and
 that

that, supposing their correspondence should be discovered, it might still be continued without the least injury to her character, as he might pass for a relation whom she accidentally met at Paris, whose family was so nearly connected with hers, that she was obliged to condescend to his visits. Annabella was too much in love with him, not to be easily persuaded, that every thing he advanced was true, and therefore made no scruple of giving him a general invitation to her house, as often as he pleased. This was all he wanted, and he resolved to behave in such a manner, as to conciliate still more and more her affection towards him. He took his leave after tea, saying, he should soon do himself the honor of paying her another visit, protesting that he no longer lived, than while under the benignant influence of her gracious smiles. She now began

began to consider what she must do to bring about a speedy marriage, which she most ardently desired. She could think of no feasible scheme to effect her design, and therefore resolved to be guided entirely by her governante, who undertook to terminate the affair in a few days. She was however cautioned not to do any thing, which might in the least sully her mistress's reputation. The pretended marquis, who at the bottom, was more in love with the fortune he imagined she possessed, than with her person, was not long before he visited her again, and was by degrees permitted to take greater liberties; and at last accompanied her to all places of public resort, and was scarce ever out of her company. The old woman as desirous as Annabella of bringing this affair to a speedy conclusion, hoping to be well

well rewarded for the pains she had taken to accomplish their wishes; to'd her mistress, she had found out a way which would at once complete her happiness, and screen her fame from any reflection the world might be apt to cast on it. This profound politician in love affairs, went privately to the house where her mistress's admirer lodged, and told him, his happiness was much nearer than he imagined, as she had a project in her head, which would very soon accomplish his desires. He was in an extacy at this unexpected good news, and presented the messenger with five louis d'ors. She said, her mistress had told her acquaintance, that she intended very soon to take a long journey, and should not return to Paris for two months; that it would be proper the marquis should be absent from the town and, and to avoid all suspicion, take a different

rent route; and met her at Senlis, where they were to be married, and afterwards come back together and declare their marriage. He returned a suitable answer to his intended spouse, and began to prepare to set out. That he might not be suspected by his creditors of having fled on account of his debts, he previously acquainted them with as much of the plot as was necessary to make them easy, after he was gone. Having got every thing ready, he went to Annabella one evening, told her, he would set out post the next morning before day-break, and attend her at the place she had appointed for the solemnization of their nuptials; begged she would follow him soon, expressed his impatience for the arrival of that hour, which was to make him the happiest of mankind in the possession of her fair person; and tenderly embracing

bracing her, took his leave. She resolved not to be long after him, and accordingly followed the next day, and arrived at Senlis, where he impatiently waited her coming four days. As soon as she had recovered the fatigue of her journey, they were married. Nothing could equal their joy, he, in the notion of being master of a great fortune, and she in being joined in wedlock to so accomplished a gentleman, and as she imagined a person of the first rank.

They passed a month together in inexpressible happiness. At length they returned to Paris, where they openly declared their marriage, and were complimented on the agreeable choice they had made of each other, by all their acquaintance.

His creditors after a short time brought in their bills, and the same nobleman not yet acquainted with the

the true state of his lady's finances, appointed them all to meet the next day, when they should be paid. He then discover'd himself to Annabella, told her, he had married her only to retrieve his fortune; and with the Authority of an imperious husband, ordered her to surrender up the deeds and writings of her estate. When she acquainted him with her condition, and that the sole object of her marrying him, was his title; rage and despair so far overcame him, as to deprive him for some time of his speech. When he recovered, he cursed himself for being cheated in such a manner, and doubly cursed the author of the deceit. He resolved, however, that as she had played this trick, she should suffer severely for it; and accordingly that very night, he escaped from the city, in the habit of a poor country fellow, carrying with him,

him, in money and jewels, to the amount of near three hundred pounds; leaving his dear Annabella to shift as she could. The next morning when she found her husband was gone, she was distracted, not so much for the loss of him, as of the valuable things he had taken with him; and she had the grief to find herself left in a large house, with a great number of servants, and only eight louis d'ors in cash. She was at a loss what to do; for some time she ran about like a mad woman, and acted by herself the same scene which had passed the day before between her and her husband. Tired at length with raving, she sunk into an elbow chair, and fell into a swoon; some servants who were near, instantly ran to her assistance and recovered her. They laid her on a bed, and her grief in some measure subsiding, she fell asleep. When she

she awoke, she began seriously to resolve in her mind how she must act in so critical a situation, in order to provide for her future support.

She had, as we have already observed, been brought up in too genteel a manner, and was too proud to think of submitting to a state of dependance for a livelihood. She, who had always lived in splendor and idleness, could not brook the humble station of a servant, and yet nothing else presented itself to her imagination. She resolved however to quit France at all events, and set out for England, where she arrived with only half a guinea. She went directly to her parents house, who received her cordially, but being under great misfortune, brought on them, principally by her extravagance in France, they were unable to afford her any considerable relief. She now saw that she must work or starve, and with

with great reluctancy accepted of a chambermaid's place in a lady's family near St. James's. She had lived there about three months, when Mr. H——, a West-India captain and merchant fell in love with her, and offered her a handsome settlement to live with him as his mistress. This overture, she was very well pleased with, and quitted her service immediately. He took genteel lodgings for her in Green-street, Leicester-fields, kept two maids and a footman to wait on her; he indulged her in every thing she could desire, and she had no less affection for him. They lived together about three months in this state of felicity, when his affairs requiring him to go to Jamaica, he was greatly perplexed what to do with her. On one hand, as he loved her to distraction, he could not think of leaving her behind, as he was not certain, whether

whether she would not listen to the addresses of some other enamorado in his absence; on the other, he was unwilling to expose her to the inconveniencies of a long voyage. She however eased him of the anxiety he suffered on her account, by desiring him to take her with him, declaring it her fixed resolution to follow him in another ship, in case he refused to comply with her desire of accompanying him. He consented to grant her request, and all things being in readinels, they embarked on board a ship, of which he was the owner, in the Downs, and arrived in six weeks at the desired port. The inhabitants of Jamaica were struck with her beauty, good sense, and engaging behaviour, and there was not one who did not allow her to be the most accomplished woman they had ever seen. The esteem the islanders entertained of Annabella, however

pleasing

pleasing to her, was notwithstanding, a subject of great uneasiness to him: He now repented that he had brought her thither, and feared he should be robbed of what he called his soul's treasure, in a place, where he hoped to keep it with greater security. He resolved therefore to keep a strict eye over her conduct, and never to suffer her to go any where, unless he went with her. Notwithstanding her keeper's vigilance, she found means sometimes to receive and pay visits unknown to him, as he was obliged now and then to be two or three days absent, which opportunities she always took care to improve. Being forc'd to go to Port Royal on urgent business, where he expected to stay a fortnight, he expressed his earnest desire that she would admit few or no visitors during his absence, promising to return as soon as possible, and in the mean time to take every

every occasion of writing to her. He set out perfectly satisfied with the assurances she gave him of observing his injunctions.

There was a lady called Mrs. B——, who lived at a plantation not far from Mr. H——'s, who charmed with Annabella's engaging behaviour, had contracted an intimacy with her. She had a nephew, who often went with her to Mr. H——'s house, and who was so captivated with our heroine's beauty, that he embraced all opportunities of seeing her. He had often endeavoured, though without success, to obtain a private interview, and rejoicing that Mr. H—— was not at home, resolved to put a scheme in execution which he had long meditated, but had never yet been able to compleat. His aunt had desired her to pass a few days with her at her country house, she accepted the offer, not in the least

least suspecting that any bad consequence would follow from the innocent pleasure she meant to take in that excursion. One afternoon as Mrs. B——, her nephew, and Annabella were sitting in an arbour, the young gentleman contrived an excuse to make his aunt retire; she was no sooner gone, than he threw himself at the feet of Mr. H——'s mistress, told her he was dying for love of her, and even proceeded so far as to ask her to grant him the last favour. Enraged at his behaviour, she quitted the arbour, flew to the house, acquainted his aunt with it, and vowed she would immediately send Mr. H——— an account of the treatment she had received, who would demand satisfaction of the offender. The lady endeavoured in vain to pacify her, urged her nephew's youth, and Annabella's irresistible charms as excuses for his behaving in that manner. When she found she

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could

could not effect a reconciliation, she suffered her to go away,

Notwithstanding she had threatened to acquaint Mr. Haughton with what had passed, she nevertheless judged it most prudent, not to be over precipitate in keeping her resolution for fear she might be censured, as over delicate, every body knowing she was not Mr. Haughton's wife. However that Capt. Johnson might not be encouraged to take the same liberty another time, she resolved to drop acquaintance with Mrs. Brown's family, and tho' she received several letters from them, imploring her forgiveness, and testifying the most intense sorrow for the affront put upon her, she nevertheless refused to receive them, and gave orders that they should be sent back again unopened. At last however, she consented to renew the friendship she before held with that family, but insisted on his asking

asking her pardon in the presence of his aunt, who also agreed with her in exacting from him this atonement. The affair being thus amicably adjusted, they visited and received visits from each other as before. One day after Mr. Haughton's return home, she was asked to pass two or three days at Mrs. Brown's, and with her keeper's consent accepted of the invitation.

The time for her return home being near, Mr. H—— went to fetch her, and unluckily arrived just as she was walking in the garden with Capt. J----. He saw her in company with one, whom his jealous mind suggested to him was his rival, and without allowing himself time for reflection, rushed into the garden with his sword drawn, and bid the young gentleman stand on his defence, upbraiding him for having robbed him of his soul's delight. He immediately drew, and they en-

gaged each other with great fury: They had not fought long before Mrs. B——'s nephew received a dangerous wound in his breast, and fell down. Mr. H—— imagining he was dead, walked with great composure, as highly satisfied with what he had done, towards the house, leaving Capt. J——, who lay bleeding on the ground, ordering his mistress to follow him, which she reluctantly did.

The first person they met was the old lady, to whom Mr. H—— said with great calmness, that it would be proper to send some of the servants to assist in bringing her nephew into the house, he having met with an accident in the garden, which had rendered him incapable of coming alone. Mrs. B—— was at a loss to discover what Mr. H—— meant, he refusing to tell her what had happened. She was equally surprised

prized at seeing Annabella in tears, and the indifference with which the Merchant behaved. At last the riddle was explained by the Captain's entering the parlour supported by two or three servants. He related the cause of his being wounded, but said, he heartily forgave the aggressor, as having been tempted to commit that rash action, out of a mistaken notion of his having injured him, which he solemnly declared was entirely wrong. Mr. H—— went away, rejoicing at what he had done, though not till he had loaded the whole family with reproaches.

When he came home, he ordered Annabella to retire to her chamber, where he locked her up, and began to exercise the greatest cruelties on her. He forbid all his servants to speak to her, except an old black negro slave who attended her. He continually reproached her with false-

hood to him, and was enraged to hear her lament the fate of Capt. Johnson, whom she supposed to be dead. In vain did she attest her innocence, it only served to aggravate her supposed crime; she represented to him the kindness he had formerly treated her with; this was a fresh motive for his present ill usage. Despairing of a reconciliation, and having in vain desired him to let her go away, she considered of a stratagem to effect that, which her most earnest prayers could not obtain. As it was necessary she should communicate her intention of eloping to some trusty friend, who might be instrumental towards the making her escape; she was for some time at a loss to find one in whom she might confide. Her chambermaid seemed the properest person, who, on being promised an hundred pounds, engaged to assist her mistress in her scheme of going

going away. Unhappily there was no ships in the harbour of Jamaica ready to sail, and any delay might have been attended with fatal consequences. This perplexed the maid for some time, 'till at last she luckily hit on the following expedient. There was a vessel at Montegoe Bay, bound to North-Carolina, and another at Savanna, destined for Cuba. The captains of both happened to be in Jamaica ; the maid went to each of them, and took a passage for the different ports they were bound to. She told the Carolina Captain, that a young gentleman who had been in most parts of Europe, desirous of returning to England, having some affairs of consequence to transact at North-Carolina, wanted a ship to carry him thither. To the other, she told the same story, only changing the name of the place. She then ordered two suits of cloaths to be

made, one for her mistress, the other for herself; and when all was ready she released her from her confinement, and they both went off in the night, having previously obtained the keys of the house from the slave, who kept them, and whom they had engaged in their interest by a promise of his liberty, if he would go with them, besides a handsome pecuniary reward. They walked to the sea-side, where a boat waited, which carried them to Montegoe Bay. Immediately after their arrival there, they went on board the ship, and kept themselves as retired as possible to prevent being discovered. They had been there five or six days when the captain having settled all his concerns at Jamaica, repaired to his vessel; they immediately sailed, and with a fair wind soon reached the desired port. They found another ship at Charles-Town, the place where they now

were,

were, bound to England directly, which brought Annabella home to her native country.

She took lodgings at Mrs. H——'s, Perfumer, in Brewer-street, where she had not been long, before she had almost as many admirers as formerly at Paris. Her complexion indeed was so much impaired by the heat of the country she lately came from, that it was difficult to know her again. She was however caressed by those who could form a right judgment of the beauties of the mind, which were so conspicuous in her, as to make ample amends for the loss of her beauty. Among the crowd of Votaries who constantly frequented her house, none pleased her so much as the —— of —— . He was overjoyed at finding her endowed with such amiable qualities, and tho' already married to a very accomplished lady, he resolved to make

Annabella his mistress. She, who desired nothing so ardently, as to live with a man of real nobility, joyfully gave her consent, and her new lover made her remove to his own house.

The D—— of G—— was at that time married to the daughter of Sir Henry L——l, a young lady of such singular beauty, and rare accomplishments, as seemed calculated not only to inspire a passion, but also to continue it in its vigour. But however deserving she might be of his love, the more powerful charms of his new mistress gradually weaned his affections from her, insomuch, that what he formerly took so great delight in, he now began to loath. This her Grace plainly perceived, and was vexed that the D——, who before he saw Annabella was so passionately fond of her, had taken such a dislike to her. In vain did she endeavour

deavour to learn the motives of his present behaviour to her, from his own mouth; he always declined giving her that satisfaction. To heighten her grief, he was very seldom in her company, and scarce ever was at home at the same time that she was; he had separate Apartments from hers, and carried himself towards her in every respect, with so great indifference, as plainly shewed that he only wanted by acting in this manner, to excite her hatred against him, as he had before conciliated her affection. The D—— is on the contrary, that he might have no excuse to plead in his own behalf, did all that lay in her power to reclaim him, and therefore carefully sought every occasion to see him and talk to him, flattering herself that he would at least have been moved by this shew of duty and love. But all her hopes were frustrated; she was now be-

come irksome to him, and he would gladly have embraced any opportunity of being separated from her. As her conduct was in every respect unexceptionable, he was puzzled to find out a way of compassing his designs, and therefore, as he had determined to part with her, insinuated to her father, that he had cause to suspect her virtue, as she was become less solicitous to please him than before, and frequently failed in her respect towards him, in the most essential points. Her father, whose good opinion of the D—— made him believe all that was advanced to his daughter's prejudice, promised to interpose his authority, in order to effect a reformation in her. He accordingly went to her, related what the D—— had told him, and expostulated with her in the warmest terms, on the duty a wife owes her husband. She endeavoured to persuade her father, that what had
been

been said against her was utterly false, and offered to prove in many instances her own innocence. He was deaf to all her reasons, which he considered as palliations of her guilt, and threatened to disown her for his child, if she did not for the future act so as to give the D—— no reason of further complaint. Thus perplexed, and unable to determine how she should proceed in this critical situation, she at last resolved to write to him, gently reprimanding him for his unkindness to her, and told him, that as life would become a burthen to her, if a final separation between them should ensue, that she would willingly own herself guilty of whatsoever he accused her, and earnestly begged he would return her a kind answer. The D—— was pleased at receiving this letter, as the contents of it were such as would justify his conduct towards her. He immediately

ately parted from her, and shewed her letter to those who censured his conduct, as a plain proof that she deserved the worst treatment. Annabella, though she could not applaud him for acting in this manner, rejoiced that she had so great an ascendancy over him, as to make him put away his own wife on her account. He grew so fond of her that he seem'd to have no enjoyment when out of her company, and she had so far gained his affections, as to make him grant her any favour she request-ed of him. She made use of this advantage to promote Mr. H—g—e to be a messenger to the D—— of Port—l—d, then Lord Chamberlain, and he afterwards, thro' her means was made messenger extraordinary to the D—— on his being appointed first L--d of the T--y. She was also very kind to her poor relations, and frequently obtain'd such plentiful supplies of money from her keeper, as were

were a comfortable relief to them in their necessities, She accompanied the D--- every where, and her polite behaviour, good sense, and affability, gained her the esteem of all those whom she visited.

There were not wanting several amongst the nobility, who envied the happiness the D--- enjoyed in the company of Annabella, and who sighed for an opportunity of partaking of the same enjoyment. Lord M---ch however succeeded the best in his design; she had seen him several times, and had entertained a passion for him, before ever he had made her any overtures on that head. He took the opportunity of writing to her, painted his love for her in terms which expressed the warmest affection, and entreated her to allow him the liberty of visiting her in the D---'s absence. This she consented to, and my Lord studiously improved

improved every opportunity of seeing her. As he was very intimate with the D---, she went often with him to his Lordship's house, and he placed so great confidence in her, that he often left them alone together in private. 'Tis true no ladies were ever present at these tete à tetes, their conversation being usually such, as is offending to a modest ear. They were so successful in their amours, that they often privately met together, unknown to the D---, who did not at all suspect their intimacy. They continued their intrigue for near half a year, when Lord M--ch, whom satiety had cloyed, began to look for some new beauty to make a conquest of. Miss P----- had too much penetration not to see this, and was very uneasy on that account. She perceived the ardour of my Lord's passion for her was much abated, and that he was anxious for

an occasion of breaking of that correspondence which had hitherto subsisted between them. Her anger on this account was inexpressible, and she conceived an implacable hatred against her, whose superior beauty had captivated his Lordship's heart. Fearing however, lest the D——, whom she most tenderly loved, should be apprized of what had passed between her and Lord M——ch, she was forced to hide her resentment, and be content to reproach him of his infidelity to her, and forbid him her presence.

About this time, a report prevailed that the D—— was going to be reconciled to his Lady, the consequence of which would be, that Annabella would lose her keeper. The terrible apprehensions this gave her, were greater than can be imagined: She fell dangerously ill of a fever, and all that could be said, could not prevail.

prevail on her to disbelieve what had been so confidently asserted; a melancholy resignation to her hard fate succeeded, and she resolved to quit England once more, a country in which she had been so ill used, and without even acquainting the D. — with her designs, set out for Paris in Jan. 1768. She remained in France near three months, and endeavoured as much as possible to forget her sorrows; That place, which the first time she was there, had afforded her so much pleasure, had now no allurements to engage her; she look'd on that city where she had before passed her time so agreeably, as her place of banishment; although there were not wanting those, who attracted by her beauty, strove to sooth her grief, by protestations of the sincerest love, yet she look'd on all they said as mere bombast, proceeding from the volatile temper of the French.

A new

A new motive of vexation was the decay of her charms, which as we have said were greatly impaired by the heat of the climate of Jamaica. Her continual fretting brought on her a fever which lasted three weeks, and which was so violent, that she lay at the point of death. The D--- was ever present to her imagination, she continually call'd on his name, reproached him with unkindness to her, to him she ascribed the loss of that tranquility of mind she before enjoyed, and said every thing that grief and rage is apt to suggest to one, who is injured in the most tender point. She resolved to write to him as soon as ever her illness would permit her to do so, and about a week after she had quitted her bed, which she had hitherto kept, she sent him the following very pathetic letter.

“ My

" My Lord,

" Your Lordship cannot but be sensible of the severe pangs, a heart so entirely yours as mine, must feel at your cruel behaviour. I foolishly imagined myself alone capable of rivetting your affections, but find to my sorrow, you are fickle and inconstant as the wind. Could you suppose I should long survive this treatment? No: I shall shortly be no more, and then you will be at liberty to make your addresses to any one else you please; but oh! take heed my Lord, how you wrong any other woman, on whose credulity your flattering tongue may so far impose as to make her believe you love her above the rest of her sex; for she will not put up with so great an insult, with the same calmness which I have, My spirits are too much exhausted to let me write a longer letter:

letter : I shall therefore close this with desiring you to reflect on your past conduct, and the unhappy state it has reduced me to. Think on her whom in your transports you called your only joy ; and consider that you have made her completely wretched. Do not at least forget me entirely, but sometimes remember the wretched

A. PARSONS."

Paris, Feb. 18, 1768.

The D--- on receiving this epistle, was moved to great pity for the sufferings of his charmer, and resolved to give that heart cause of joy, which had been so familiar with grief. He wrote an answer filled with expressions of the greatest tenderness, protesting that what had been said concerning his being reconciled to his wife was entirely groundless and that the story had only been raised to induce her to leave him, and make some rival whom her beauty

beauty had made a conquest of, happy in the enjoyment of her irresistible charms. He swore he would never abandon her, and entreated her to come once more and live with him; bid her draw on him immediately for 1000l. and only wait till a proper person could be dispatched to Paris, to whose care she might with safety commit herself: He concluded with beseeching her not to harbour a thought to his prejudice, but to rest assured that he loved her as much, if not more than ever he did in his life.

She read this letter with all the satisfaction that could be expected from its pleasing contents; and her mind, which of late was so troubled, now resumed its former tranquility. She grew perfectly well in a few days, and waited with the utmost impatience the arrival of the messenger, who was to carry her to England.

land. The D— pitched on Horatio to bring Miss P—— home, who very diligently executed this commission. That nothing might be omitted, which in any shape redounded to her honour, his majesty's yacht was ordered to attend her arrival at Calais, in which she embarked, and in three hours time landed at Dover. She was too desirous of being at London as soon as possible, to be prevailed on to stay all night at the sea port, whither the vessel had conveyed her, so that after a short refreshment, she quitted Dover, at two o'clock in the afternoon, and arrived at the D—'s house in St. J—'s street, at midnight, without once stopping on the road. The reader may judge how they rejoiced at the sight of each other. They were some minutes silent, till the D—— speaking first, exclaimed, "This is true happiness indeed!" Annabel-
la's

la's joy was not less than her
 lover's: that passion had locked up
 all her senses. After the first emo-
 tions of it were over, they began
 to entertain each other in a manner
 not to be conceived, but by such as
 have ever been in the like circum-
 stances. Three days after they went
 to Newmarket together, where An-
 nabella was caressed by all the com-
 pany, everyone being anxious to please
 her, as she made it her particular
 study not to leave any thing undone,
 which might render her company
 delightful. There was not a party
 of pleasure, whether public or pri-
 vate at which she was not present:
 She was remarkable for the Bon Mots,
 with which she enlivened the con-
 versation, and the agreeable manner
 she had in telling a story, seemed to
 add weight to the most trifling inci-
 dents of it. Her enamorado took
 great pleasure in the attention every
 body

body paid to her, never went any where alone, nor seemed to enjoy himself, if she happened to be absent, which was very seldom. But as all earthly happiness is of short duration, twelve days were scarce elapsed, when a messenger was dispatched from London to New Market, to acquaint the d—— that his presence was necessary at London on important affairs, which could not be compleated without his concurrence. Miss P——s was very sorry that her stay at New Market must be so short, and with great reluctance returned to London. While they were in this city she embarked in an adventure, which though happily attended with no unlucky consequences, had like to have ruined her with the d——.

A few days after her arrival in London with —— she went to Ranelagh in company with some

D

ladies

ladies, who had requested her company thither. A young gentleman who saw her, struck with her beauty, resolved to know who she was, and where she lived. That he might the better succeed in his enterprize, he went to an arbour, where Annabella and her company were at supper, and with an air of freedom, begged the ladies permission to sit down by them; all the other places being too full to admit any more. This favour was easily granted, and the young gentleman having called for wines, drank to the ladies, and joined in conversation with them. He was astonished at the good sense, sparkling wit, and pleasing turn of Annabella's discourse. In short, that night's interview rivetted her so fast in his affections, as to make him long for an opportunity of a private interview with her. Fortune was favourable to him on this occasion, and

and soon pointed out to him a way of accomplishing his desire. The crowd was very great at the door, so that it was with much difficulty that some of the company gained their carriages, while several others were constrained to walk. —'s mistress would have been of the number of the latter, had not the young gentleman with great politeness offered her his chariot, which she readily accepted of; and he waited on her in it, to her own door, where with great respect he took his leave, pleased that he had discovered her abode. If he was enchanted at her matchless perfections, she was no less in love with him, and resolved to be better acquainted with him; she was, however, unwilling to break the ice first, and judging that he would contrive some scheme to see her, or write to her soon, she waited with the utmost impatience for three

days ; at the end of which she received a letter, wrote with all the eloquence love can suggest, lavish in the praises of her person, and filled with expressions of the most confirmed passion for her, humbly desiring leave to visit her. She returned a gracious answer, but let him know, that, as her keeper was very much at home, she could not allow him that liberty, which would be an undoubted source of jealousy, as — was very subject to it. She made an assignation at her milliner's the next day. Thither he went, and was scarce got to the house, when she arrived in a hackney coach, and without any servant to attend her. They were immediately conducted to a private room, where no body could be witness of what passed. I leave the reader to form an idea of the happiness they experienced in the company of each other.

They

They staid together till it was late in the evening, and parted, not without regret at the shortness of time. They agreed to meet together at the same place very often, and accordingly neglected no opportunity that Cupid threw in their way of seeing each other. ——— was at home, before his mistress, and anxious to know where, and with whom she had been at that hour, was greatly chagrined at being told the manner of her going by herself, and in a hackney coach. She was greatly perplexed to find a proper excuse, but at last told him she had been to see a distant relation, who lived at a great distance, and who had forced her against her will to stay all the evening at their house; that it was with great difficulty they permitted her to go home, on condition of returning the next day. As she did not mention her relation's

name, ———'s curiosity was rather heightened than satisfied. He put several questions to her, relative to what she had told him; but her answers not sufficiently satisfying him, he suspected her of falshood, and let drop some expressions, intimating that a repetition of the like behaviour would for ever deprive her of his favour. The day following, she paid another visit to the young gentleman, notwithstanding what had passed between the d— and her the night before; she was, however, so narrowly watched by the d—'s servants, who had received orders to keep a constant eye on all her actions, that she and her lover were surprized by him, at a time when they would have most desired to be private. He entered the chamber where they were with his sword drawn, and after having severely checked madam for suffering herself

self to be found in such a situa-
 tion, by one, to whom, gratitude
 alone ought to make her constant;
 he ordered the gentleman, whom
 fear had almost deprived of his senses,
 to rise and prepare to answer the in-
 sult he had offered to a man of the
 d——'s quality with the sword. He
 immediately obeyed, and a bloody
 fray presently began between them.
 Annabella, who was in bed, tried in
 vain to appease the d---'s anger, who
 threatened her with instant death, un-
 less she was silent. She cried, wrung
 her hands, and seeing the young
 gentleman dangerously wounded, she
 fell into a swoon, in which she re-
 mained, till the combatants left off
 fighting, which was not before the
 d--'s antagonist fell to the ground;
 a surgeon was immediately sent for,
 who examined the wounds he had
 received, but gave little hopes of his
 recovery. He was carried home in
 D 4 a chair,

a chair, and kept his bed four months. He at last grew well, and apprehending some fresh disaster from the d—'s resentment, he retired to Paris, without acquainting even his most intimate friends or nearest relations with the place of his residence. Annabella went home with her keeper, who in the first emotions of his rage, forbid her his presence, assigned her a separate apartment, and refused to hear from her, or speak to her, for a considerable time. At last, after many intreaties and promises of being true to him alone, he consented to replace her in his favour, though he always remembered her former conduct. She took care to give him no cause of complaint, and though often solicited to break her promise of fidelity, yet she was too sensible of the unhappy consequences of her last intrigue to gratify their desires. The
great

great respect the d—— paid Annabella on all occasions, the great complaisance with which he treated her, joined to the preference he gave her over all the ladies of quality who came to his house, so highly disgusted all the nobility, that they refused to visit him, though he often pressed them to favour him with their company. They were highly displeased at his placing her before them in the same box at the opera or play, and what offended them yet more, was his keeping her in the same house with his lady, who besides the amiable qualities she possessed, was near a kin to some of the greatest families in the kingdom.

The d——'s lady, who could not bear to see a mistress treated with so much fondness, while she herself was used in so cruel a manner, especially as she was conscious he could not take the least exception at any part

of her conduct, determined to quit his house of her own accord, rather chusing to do so, than wait for a dismissal from him, which she hourly expected. She accordingly, unknown to any one in the family, having prepared every thing before, went away one morning early. Her departure surprized all, and every one heartily lamented the loss they sustained of a kind and indulgent mistress. As she was resolved to quit the kingdom as soon as possible, she set off with all speed in a post chaise for Dover, where the packet boat was in readiness for sailing. She immediately embarked, and being landed at Calais, she, without any longer delay, set out towards Paris, and did not stop any where till she reached the end of her journey. We shall now leave her, there to weep over her hard fortune, and resume the thread of our story.

story. The d—— heartily rejoiced that she was gone, now thought himself more at liberty than ever to pursue his amour with Annabella, of whom he grew still more enamoured. He was no longer troubled with the sight of one he no longer loved; his eyes were strangers to the severe reproaches his lady's injured innocence almost incessantly loaded him with, and he was happy beyond expression in the enjoyment of her, to whose charms he would have sacrificed the whole world, had it been in his power. His mistress, though she sincerely loved ——, could not however avoid embarking in some new intrigues, which she carried on with so much discretion and secrecy, as would have rendered the most diligent scrutiny of her conduct in this respect of little or no avail.

It is to be observed that ——— now thoroughly convinced of her fidelity towards him, had thrown away all suspicion of her intimacy with any body else; to this end he gave her an unbounded liberty of paying and receiving visits from whomsoever she pleased, whether gentlemen or ladies. Amongst the females who enjoyed a freed access to the d—'s house the celebrated Miss Annabella D ——— was always cordially received. Her beauty, good sense, wit, and fine understanding, had gained her a large share in Annabella's esteem, so that she made her her inseparable companion. These two, (the greatest adepts in the art of intrigue perhaps that ever existed) were busied in bringing about an interview between the d—'s mistress, and the son of a wealthy merchant, who having seen Annabella at the play, was so taken with her charms, that at the close
of

of the representation, having entreated the liberty of handing her to her chair with a gentle squeeze, which sufficiently denoted how deep a wound Cupid's arrow had made in his heart, humbly begged she would permit him to visit her. She, who was as much pleased with him, as he was with her, with a smile which plainly shewed she was not displeased at the nature of his request, gave her consent as long as his behaviour did not preclude him from a place in her esteem; and that he might not be ignorant of the place of her abode, gave orders to the chairmen to carry her to the d——'s house so distinctly, that he could not miss the place. After forming many schemes, which on more mature consideration appeared too hazardous or difficult to compass, they resolved to introduce him in woman's apparel, and make him pass for a French lady, whom the d——'s mistress.

mistress had formerly known at Paris. This was very easily accomplished, the young citizen's features being rather softer than generally they are in men, and his age not exceeding sixteen, were most happily calculated to answer their design. He was immediately acquainted with the intended manner of his appearance at the d——'s house, and as quickly got himself ready to appear before his mistress, in this metamorphose. He was introduced in this manner to A——, one afternoon when the d—— was present, and he acted his part so exceedingly well, that not one in the house knew that he was a man, except Miss D—— and the d——'s mistress. After tea, the ladies took a turn in the garden, attended by the d——, who was highly pleased at this new connection which Miss P—— had formed with the pretended lady. He thought that the
 com

complaisance with which he had behaved to her during the first visit, might perhaps induce her when she was more intimate in the family, to grant him the same favours he received from the kind Annabella; but at the same time resolved to use all the precaution imaginable, not to let the scheme he intended to put in execution get air. He desired her not to make herself a stranger to his house, but to come as often as she conveniently could. This politeness of the d— intirely coincided with their plot of enrolling him in the honourable list of cuckolds, if we may be allowed the expression, and he was so much in love with her company, that he was always dull when she was absent. His mistress took notice of it, and rallied him thereon. At the same time, smiling within herself to think that he suffered so gross an imposition. She had now all the opportunities she

she could wish, and did not fail to make a proper use of them. She often enjoyed the young citizen's company, and even went so far as to bed with him at her own house when the d— was at home. One trick of this kind which she played cannot be omitted, on account of its singularity, and the astonishing cunning and art with which it was conducted. She had been at Vauxhall one evening in company with her gallant, who was in his female dress, and coming home she pretended a sudden illness, and went immediately to bed. She, as it had been concerted before between them, told the d— that with his permission she would for that night lie in another apartment, and request'd her new lover to lie with her. This he politely consented to, and thus the d— who joined with Annabella in soliciting the same favour, became the

dupe

dupe of their wiles. An accident however happened, which unluckily put an end to their intimacy, by discovering to the d—— who his mistress's new acquaintance really was. The young gentleman had taken country lodgings at Kew, and had invited Miss P—— to pass a month there with him, and her keeper very obligingly condescended to accept of the same invitation ; and accordingly accompanied her thither.

One day after dinner, the pretended female, whose chamber was contiguous to that in which Annabella and the d—— lay, told her, she desired her opinion on some little pieces of poetry she had wrote for her own amusement ; Annabella consented, and when they were alone, the other locked the door as she imagined. When they had been in private some time, the d——, who had been seeking his mistress, and had just learned

learned where she was, going up softly surprized them before they had time to make any apology for the situation in which he found them. He had, as has been before observed, long entertained a desire to partake of the sham lady's favours, and had in vain tried several ways to accomplish his desires. He was angry to the highest degree at what he saw; he reproached Miss P—— in the severest terms for this second proof she had given him of her infidelity, and vowed he would never bed with her again. He then turned to her ravisher, and after loading him with the most opprobrious names his rage could devise, quitted the house immediately, and forbid his mistress ever to come near him any more. As she had a real affection for her keeeper, notwithstanding this slip she had made, she was sensibly touched with grief, that she had given him
cause

cause to treat her in that manner, and was greatly perplexed what course to take, to be reconciled to him. Two months were scarce elapsed, when the d——, who could with as much facility have removed a mountain out of its place, as entirely root out Annabella from his heart, consented, at her earnest intreaty, joined to a solemn promise that her conduct for the future should be unexceptionable, to live with her as before. She never afterwards admitted any man to visit her as she had formerly done, and in all respects gave her keeper so much satisfaction, that he entirely forgot she had ever deceived him.

We are come now to a part of her life, filled with melancholy instances of the ill usage she suffered from the d——, who unhappily for her, saw a young lady, whom we call Lucinda, one morning in the Park, whose exquisite beauty had so wonderful an effect

effect on his mind, that he no longer seemed to take any pleasure in her, whom before he had so tenderly loved. He found on enquiry, that Lucinda was the daughter of a clergyman, and by the mother's side was related to several great people ; that except her fortune, which was very inconsiderable, she possessed all the amiable qualities that tend to render the married state happy. He did not dare to address her as a mistress, and therefore resolved to marry her, provided her father would consent to the match. He flattered himself that the ambition of being so nearly related to the ancient and noble house of G——— would remove any obstacle that might otherwise be thrown in the way ; and as her family was totally unacquainted with his character, he concluded that he should meet with no difficulty in obtaining what he desired. Having found out where

where she lived, he wrote a handsome letter to her father, requesting leave to pay his addresses to his daughter, protesting that his intentions were honourable, and that he meant no less than to make her his wife.

Lucinda's father, on the receipt of this letter, called his daughter to him, shewed it her, and desired her sentiments on it. She blushed, seemed uneasy, and begged to be excused from explaining her thoughts on such a subject, and desired leave to withdraw. The old gentleman insisted on her staying, and again commanded her to tell him freely her opinion, whether she believed she could be happy in having G— for her husband and above all to conceal nothing of what passed in her heart on this occasion. Upon this, she said, as marriage was a step for life, she

she humbly conceived it to be a matter of too great consequence to be so soon determined ; that there were many preliminary articles to be settled ; that she was sensible her fortune was too small to entitle her to be joined in wedlock to a nobleman, and for that reason greatly apprehended, that, notwithstanding all the d—'s protestations of an honourable love, his only drift was to make her his mistress. She farther observed that as her family were unacquainted with his character, it would be proper to make such enquiries into it, as might be necessary to assure both her father and her, that he intended nothing but what was highly consistent with that honour and generosity which ever should accompany a virtuous courtship. Her father was charmed at this sensible answer she gave him, and in consequence of it returned the
d—

d— a polite answer, acknowledging the great honour that would be conferred on his family by so noble an alliance; but at the same time, modestly refused to marry his daughter to one who was so much superior to her in rank: and added that, if notwithstanding his reasons to the contrary, the d— still persisted in his intentions of uniting himself to one of Lucinda's low birth, he hoped he would not object to any question that might be proposed concerning his character.

G— wrote a handsome letter back, and expressing in the warmest terms the joy the old gentleman's letter had given him, said, he would shortly come in person and convince him and his daughter, that they had not only nothing to fear from such a marriage, but even much reason to congratulate each other on an intercourse which, he flattered himself, would

would turn out entirely to the satisfaction of all parties; and directed him to several persons of fashion, who would be ready to clear up with candour and sincerity, any doubt which might arise relative to his birth, fortune, or connections. Tho' by the way, he was cautious of mentioning such, as he knew would say nothing to his prejudice. He paid a visit to the young lady a few days after this, and was received by her father with all the complaisance imaginable, and cordiality due to one who was to be hereafter so nearly connected with his family. Lucinda's beauty made so deep an impression on his mind, during this first interview, that he resolved to abandon all other women for her sake, and at once forgot his dear Annabella.

The reader cannot but be sensible how much vexation and grief this must give Miss P——s and she de-

determined to do all in her power to hinder the success of G——'s enterprise, or at least to defer the execution of it for a long time, flattering herself that fortune might perhaps so far favour her design as to throw some insurmountable difficulties in their way. She was continually busied in finding out some scheme, and wrote several anonymous letters to Lucinda and her father, giving them a faithful detail of all she knew concerning the d——. These letters the old gentleman shewed G——, who to support his own innocence, disavowed all they contained, swore he would immediately make all diligent search after the author, and commence a prosecution against him. Notwithstanding the d——'s outward shew of frankness on so nice a point, and the affected contempt with which he treated the writer; neither Lucinda nor

E her

her father would listen to his entreaties of not deferring his happiness any longer, but whenever he urged it, they constantly found an excuse to avoid giving a consent, not easily recalled. A——, whose mind was continually on the rack to devise some means of supplanting G—— in Lucinda's affection (for she had conceived a passion for him) finding that all her attempts had hitherto proved abortive, resolved to put on him, and that family he was on the point of marrying into, a plot, on the success of which she entirely relied, as the only way left to recover her broken peace of mind. She dressed herself in men's cloaths, and went to the house where Lucinda's father dwelt, and he being at home, she told him, she was come to beg his permission to address his daughter, as one whom he intended with the old gentleman's leave to make his wife. She

She said, she was convinced, a lady of Lucinda's great beauty and accomplishments could not be without many admirers: that she was particularly acquainted with one of them, to whom she feared Lucinda was too much engaged to be able to break off, and whose character she was no ways a stranger to. And the father added, that he feared he had got so great an ascendancy over her, that whatever was alledged against him, would avail little towards inducing her to fix on any one else. The young lady and her father imagining the supposed officer (for A— appeared in that habit) from what he had already advanced, was too well acquainted with G——'s character, and had too much honour to say any thing that was not true, readily gave credit to whatever was said relative to him. She told them that the person who had wrote the

anonymous letter, concerning the d.—, was very well known to her, but refused to tell the name, though she said the author was ready at any time to support the charge laid against the d.—, whenever called upon so to do.

The old gentleman was now greatly perplexed what course to take; he had made G—— a solemn promise that he would not give his daughter to any one else, and how to go back from his word he could not tell, tho' he was resolved never to bestow her on one, whose character was such as he had heard of the d.—. That he might proceed with greater security, he invited Miss P—— to dinner one day, when her keeper was to be there, when the father of Lucinda, spoke to the d.— to the following effect.

My

My Lord;

“ The honour you intend my family, by this marriage, is much too great, for persons of our condition even to dare to hope for. Our ambition does not soar so high. Nevertheless, as your lordship's character, even without my enquiring into the unknown author of those letters, has been represented to me such as reflects no small dishonour on your grace; I have taken the liberty of telling you, that I neither can nor will, ever give my consent for my daughter to wed a man of whom the world speaks in such a manner, till I am thoroughly satisfied from that man himself, of the truth of what has been alledged against him. The writer of those letters is very well known to lieutenant Sinclair, (that was the name A—— had assumed) and he is ready to vouch for the variety of their contents.

E 3

G. —

G——, who never expected such an harrangue from the clergyman, was some time e'er he could form a suitable answer. A—— trembled for fear of being discovered, and began to apprehend some dangerous consequences from this enterprize. The d— was the first who broke silence, and he began by desiring the supposed officer to divulge the name of him or her who had prejudiced his future father-in-law so far against him, that he might oblige that person to repeat before him, what he had advanced to his prejudice during his absence. This A—— politely refused, telling him, that were she to comply with his request, it would only be a source of greater uneasiness to him, and therefore begged he would use his endeavours to inform himself of what, if he once were acquainted with it, would only serve to increase his trouble by some other

other channel; that having given her word of honour, never to let any thing transpire to the injury of that person, she neither could nor would ever be guilty of such treachery.

G—— enraged at her behaviour, began to treat her in terms not altogether consistent with that decorum, which gentlemen use to observe towards each other, and even proceeded so far as to strike her; adding that since no other argument could prevail on her to discover what he and every one present desired so much to know he insisted on her, giving him satisfaction with the point of her sword. This she easily agreed to, as she intended never to meet him, and thus they parted.

The d— was too much vexed at this day's adventure, to be able to resume his usual good humour, and though he did all he could to appear gay, it was plain he was too deeply

affected with what had passed, to hide what he felt in his heart on that account. He took leave of the company in an abrupt manner, leaving the supposed officer victorious. He went home, locked himself up, and vented his grief in silence. He raved, tore his hair, and exhibited all the symptoms of madness. To heighten his distress, when he first appeared as usual in the family, he was told that his mistress had called several times, desiring to see him on important business, which could not be communicated to any body else. To refuse her admittance was unsafe, as he suspected she had heard of his engagement with Lucinda. He could not devise any means to avoid an interview from which he dreaded so much anxiety, and therefore ordered his servants to let her see him the first time she came to his house.

She

She came the next day, when pursuant to his commands, she found an easy access to his apartment. The air of reserve he put on, when she entered the room, and the distant manner with which he behaved during the whole time she was there, would have plainly convinced her (had she not been sensible of it before) that she was no welcome guest at that time. She, on the contrary, appeared merry, and rallied him on his being so melancholy, asking him if he had been unsuccessful in some new intrigue. Who the cruel beauty was, offered herself as a mediator in his favour; and, in a word, contributed all that lay in her power to increase the solicitude he already suffered; dropping some hints likewise, that she was not an entire stranger to his motives for making acquaintance with Lucinda's family. She refused to let him know how she had discovered

vered it, and this worked him up to such a pitch of anger, that he ordered her immediately to go away; and forbad all his servants to give her admittance for the future.

She was now sorry she had gone so far, but finding herself unable to appease his wrath, she judged it most prudent to obey, and therefore quitted with reluctance that house, in which she had formerly experienced so much happiness and content. She resolved to submit to the fate her unkind stars had allotted her, and, if she could, suffer him to proceed unmolested in his amour.

G—— now summoned all the art he was master of to his aid, to find out some way to close the breach, which the supposed lieutenant Sinclair had made between him and Lucinda's family. He revolved several schemes without effect. He foresaw it would be no easy matter to
regain

regain the old gentleman's good graces ; and this made him despair. Resolved, however, to leave no means untried, which seemed to afford him the least hope of success, he imagined nothing would conduce so much to effect this design, as the persuading Lucinda's father not to credit any report his enemies might for the future spread, in order to impede his marriage. This was no easy task, as the issue of it plainly demonstrated ; and it was not without great difficulty that he obtained admission into a house, the master of which now entertained so indifferent an opinion of him.

The first time he appeared there, after the late affair with the officer, he told the father, that in answer to those anonymous letters he had received relative to his character, he was ready to produce authentic testimonies of his being innocent of whatever

they contained against him, at the same time giving him several letters, which he had caused to be written by some of his acquaintance, who all took care to give a most favourable account of him.

The old gentleman appeared satisfied with this, and told G—— that he was now convinced all that lieutenant Sinclair had told him was false; that he verily believed the former letter to be spurious; and that if the d--- would bring some of his friends to support what they had said in his favour, he would no longer hesitate to accomplish his happiness. This G—— promised to perform, and on an appointed day he made a grand entertainment, to which he invited Lucinda's father, and several of his acquaintance, who before they parted, gave the old gentleman such convincing proofs that his intended son-in-law was a man of honour, as
left

left him no room to doubt the truth of their assertions. The time was therefore fixed for the marriage, and each one took his leave, very well pleased with the proceedings of that day.

A——, who still had an after-game to play, contrived to throw another bar in the d—'s way, which he found much greater difficulty in removing, than any which had hitherto precluded him from the possession of what he so much desired. She dressed herself like a farmer's daughter, went to the house of Lucinda, and told her father, that the d— had got her with child, and had promised to marry her.

This put all the family into a greater consternation than ever. They were totally at a loss how to act, but concluded, that it would be most prudent to break off the match at once; and Lucinda was advised to think no more of the d—. She, who
was

was not altogether unsusceptible of vanity, had pleased herself with the hope of becoming a lady of the first rank, could not be so easily prevailed on to banish him from her thoughts. She loved him and to her great satisfaction perceived she was not displeasing to him. Her father wrote immediately to the d—, acquainting him with what had happened, and forbid him, in the most peremptory manner, ever to come again to his house.

G——'s pride was not a little shocked at the freedom with which the clergyman treated him; he sent him an answer in terms, which indicated the highest resentment for the affront as he called it, which had been offered to a man of his dignity; and further told him, he was sorry he could not meet him on the same terms as another man; observing, that his gown alone screened him
from

from the direful effects he should otherwise make him feel of his wrath. The clergyman returned for answer, that he was far from insulting his quality, but hinted that nobility, unaccompanied by good actions, only serves to make the possessor of it more conspicuously vicious.

The d— now despaired of ever attaining the summit of his wishes, and therefore for his own ease resolved to seek for some other beauty, which would not cross him so much in the pursuit of his intrigues.

He had a strong suspicion that Miss P—— had a hand in the plot formed against him, though it never once occurred to him, that she was the sole contriver and actress in the several schemes practised to disappoint him. He resolved to satisfy himself in this doubt, and if he found her to be the author of them, to put it entirely out of her power ever to be able

able to be any further obstacle to his designs.

He accordingly sent her a letter, requesting to see her as soon as possible; and the better to engage her to to discover all she knew of the matter, he told her he freely forgave her, and presented her with a bill of five hundred pounds.

This generosity of the d—'s A— knew not how to resist; she made an open confession of all she had done to hinder his entering on a treaty of marriage with any other woman. She laid open to him the whole scheme of her personating an officer and a country girl. In a word, she concealed nothing of her proceedings from him; and he, in return, told her, she might depend on his future favour, as a reward for the sincerity she had shewn on the present occasion. This, however, was only to induce her not to take any step similar to
her

her former ones. He still persisted in the resolution of shaking her off as soon as possible, and therefore behaved with such an unevenness of temper, as soon gave her to understand that she no longer yielded him any delight. Some time he passed whole days without speaking to her, at others he behaved with great moroseness, and now and then (very seldom) he appeared pleased with her.

Life now became a burden to her, as she had lost the power of pleasing, and the d—'s temper was so fickle. and what gave him satisfaction one day, had quite a contrary effect on him another; she thought it most prudent to look out for somebody else, on whose constancy she could with more security depend. An occasion shortly presented itself, which procured her a lover in all respects admirably well adapted to her purpose. She went to a linen-draper's
one

one day to buy some linen, which she wanted, and while she was in the shop, a young gentleman, who by his dress, equipage, and the servants who attended him, appeared to be a nobleman of the first rank, came in: Nature had been very liberal in bestowing her favours on him, and he seemed the most amiable mortal living. G —'s mistress saw him and that was enough to make her love him. She gazed on him with wonder and secret satisfaction; and thought the time he was in the shop, which was about half an hour, scarce a moment. He was equally well pleased with meeting her there, and after paying her several compliments on her beauty, he very obligingly desired she would indulge him, so far as to permit him to visit her. She gave him an agreeable smile of approbation, and they appointed a meeting at the Star and Garter in Pall Mall.

They

They were both punctual to the time appointed, and enjoyed each other's company till it was pretty late in the evening, when they parted, after having agreed to meet again shortly at the same place. They continued this intercourse for a considerable time, without ever being molested by the d—, who now made no farther enquiry where A—— went, or why she kept such late hours. As he desired to rid himself of her, he thought a cold indifference for her would soon make her quit him of her own accord; and therefore neglected nothing, which he imagined, would persuade her that he was heartily tired of her.

He had kept her much longer than ever he had been known to have the same mistress. His heart was already engaged to another; he desired nothing so ardently as to possess her, in whom all his happiness seemed.

ed to be centred. She was the daughter of Sir R——d W——tt-ley.

G——, who could scarce behold a beautiful woman without desiring to possess her, was so captivated by the angelic creature just mentioned, that he resolved immediately to make overtures of marriage to her, as that was the only way of succeeding, her birth, and the noble family from which she was descended, absolutely forbidding him to approach her on any other terms. Another reason induced him to marry. The nobility were all highly offended at his having divorce'd his d——s, and hitherto lived with Miss P——, to whom he had always given a pre-eminency over all the quality, which gained him the disesteem of them all. In order therefore to make them some sort of satisfaction for the insult he had offered to them, and principally, as has already been said, that

that Annabella was now become loathsome to him, he demanded Miss W--tt--ley of her father in marriage, who readily gave his consent, and the day was fixed on for the nuptials.

His beloved mistress, who could not bear to see him clasped in the arms of another, imagining she had a prescriptive right above every other woman over his heart, was no sooner made acquainted with the measures he had taken, to gain Sir R——d's consent, than she relolved to do all in her power to hinder the success of this enterprize; but nothing occurred to her imagination, which seemed to promise the least degree of success. She resolved many schemes in her mind, but they appeared too arduous to hazard an attempt. In this perplexity, and destitute of any friend, who would or could by their sage counsels assist her in extricating herself

self out of the difficulty she laboured under, she was unable to find that relief which her distressed situation required. Words cannot describe the anguish her mind felt on the occasion; it can only be conceived by those who have been in the like circumstances. She wrote several letters to the d——, complaining of his unkindness to her, expostulating with him on the impropriety of his conduct, expatiating on the universal censure which would necessarily follow from such a proceeding, and concluded with telling him, that she hoped he had at least so much regard left for her, as not to abandon her at a period, when from her constant attachment to him, she might reasonably expect he would for ever protect her.

His Grace did not judge proper to answer any of her letters except the last. He told her that as it was
equally

equally customary with men to be tired with the enjoyment of one woman, as it was with women to desire a variety of admirers, and that therefore no wonder if four years intimacy with her had cloyed his appetite, and that he sought some other lady whose celestial beauties might give him some relief. He farther added, that he did not intend to abandon her without bestowing on her some lasting mark of his favour and esteem for her; that he should accordingly make her a handsome settlement immediately, but forbid her ever to come near him any more, and even went so far as to insist on her quitting the kingdom, and never to return to England on pain of forfeiting all future claim to his bounty. This letter he sent with a bank note of 500l. to her, as a pledge of what he intended further to do for her, committed to the care of a trusty domestic

domestic. She received it in a manner not easily to be guessed; the reader may perhaps imagine that the inclosed note would have been of some consolation to her; but on the contrary, such was her grief on reading the contents of the paper, that in the first sallies of her passion she threw the letter into the fire, without once adverting that a thing of such great value was folded in it. Luckily the note fell out of the letter, and thus it was preserved by falling on the hearth, Tho' she was so pleased at first with burning the d——s letter, yet, on more cool reflection, she was not sorry that the note had been so fortunately preserved.

She endeavoured by all the soothing arts she was mistress of to wean the d—— from the affection he entertained for Miss W——tt——ley, but in vain, his heart being too closely united

united to her, to leave any room to hope to disengage it. She resolved however to employ every means to compass her designs. She acquainted the young lady's father on what terms the d—— and she had stood for so long a time; she even went so far as to publish a succinct account of all the principal transactions of his g——'s intimacy with her, hoping by this means to obstruct his marriage for a long time, if not entirely disappoint him. He, however, rendered all her efforts fruitless by his vigilance, and suppressed the further publication of the books by commencing a severe prosecution against the bookseller who published it.

Notwithstanding all his caution to hide from her the progress he had made in his amour with the daughter of Sir R——d W——tt——ley, she had her spies, who kept so strict an eye on his proceedings, that she was

F acquainted

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F acquainted

acquainted with all his *demarches*, but this discovery instead of being any alleviation to her sorrow, only served to augment it. She could not however avoid making these enquiries, tho' she never failed to experience the most disagreeable effects from her researches. Another insurmountable difficulty she met with, which she never dreamed of, and was of itself sufficient to make her despair of succeeding. She had been formerly on the town, and was known to have been kept by several, before she went to live with the d — — .

This he made another plea for parting from her, and publicly denounced her a common strumpet to all who were not acquainted with her character. All this could not prevail on her to desist from her resolution of doing all she could to hinder his engaging in a state which must last for life, with one who was so much

much her superior in every respect. She conceived it would be no difficult matter to dissuade the d—— from any further connections with the present object of his affections, if he could once be induced to believe, that she had ever made any other man partaker of her favours. This, tho' hard to bring about, she did not relinquish all hope of compassing, and therefore proceeded in the following manner.

She procured a clergyman's habit, and in this disguise visited Miss W-tt-y's father, and begged him to bestow his daughter on her for a wife, saying, it would be more edifying, that he (Sir R——d . being a minister of the church, should espouse her to one of the same profession, rather than to a worldly man, who had little else to recommend him, than an empty shew of a title ; and expatiated very much on the

dignity of an ecclesiastic. Sir R—, not to discourage the supposed parson, did not first give him a denial, but desired a few days to consider of the affair. She next sent a letter to the d—, in which she acquainted him, that a suitor of a different cast had paid his respects to the lady, and that he was highly approved of by her father, and not at all disagreeable to the daughter, and therefore advised him to lay aside all thoughts of succeeding in his attempts, she being too far engaged, both by love for her new admirer, and duty to her father's commands, to revoke the promise she had given of being speedily joined in wedlock to him.

The d— on reading this letter was more perplexed than ever, he first thought it best to take no notice of it, but pursue with the same tranquillity as before, his amours with Miss W—y: but then it occurred
to

to him, that this would not be so proper, as the young lady's father would naturally talk to him about the affair: he resolved therefore to prevent him by letting him know what he had heard, and at the same time shew him Annabella's letter. He did so, and Sir R—d returned for answer, that, "tho' he had the highest esteem imaginable for the d—, and the deepest sense of the honor intended to his family by such an alliance; he nevertheless hoped his g— would pardon his not keeping his word with him, since another match had been offered, which on mature consideration, seemed more suitable; and therefore hoped the d— would not persist any longer in his addresses to his daughter."

G——, thunderstruck at this discourse, knew not what to reply, till recovering from his surprize, he said, that, "affairs of so serious a
 F 3 nature

nature as that of entering into a state which was to last for life, were not trifles, nor to be sported with as such, he therefore desired the old gentleman would weigh well the unhappy consequence that might follow from such a proceeding, and how miserable his daughter would be, were she forced to give her hand, where she could not bestow her heart. That he had made his addresses to her first, and having had the good fortune not to prove disagreeable either to her, or her father, he flattered himself he would not disappoint him in the hopes he had of possessing her with whom alone he could be happy, but rather put him out of suspense by joining the hands of two, whose hearts had long been too closely united to admit of a separation."

Sir R—d was deaf to all these remonstrances, and for the present, refused to give the d— a determinate

nate answer, but at the same time persevered in persuading him to lay aside all future thoughts of his daughter, as there was too great a disparity of birth, fortune, and age between them, to afford any prospect of their living together with that harmony and mutual love, which is so essential a constitutive of happiness in the matrimonial state. G——, who saw with pain the inflexibility of the old gentleman's temper, abruptly took his leave, heartily cursing the unknown author of his bad success, and vowing revenge on him, whenever he should discover him.

Miss P——— had now gained the summit of her hopes; she had, at least, for a time, delayed G———'s marriage, and though she feared she should never be able to break off the match, yet resolved to throw as many difficulties in the way as ever she could. To this end, she set some

others of her acquaintance to work, who found means to insinuate themselves into Miss W——y's favour, so far, that though they could not obtain a promise of marriage from her, it helped at least to defer the completion of the d——'s happiness. Sir R——d saw plainly the bad consequences that might flow from such a number of suitors, who continually haunted his house, and was apprehensive that some one or other of them would carry his daughter away. He therefore judged it most prudent to change his dwelling, and retire to some unknown place, together with Miss W——y; and while he was thus deliberating what to do, he wrote the two following letters, one to G——, the other to the supposed clergyman.

“ My

“ My Lord,

“ I cannot but behold with grief, the manner in which my daughter and myself suffer, and, excuse me for taking this freedom with your grace, the principal source of all our anxiety flows from your having paid your addresses to her. I beg therefore of you my lord, to lay aside all thoughts of her, as I am determined she shall for the present remain single, or if she does make choice of a husband, it shall be one of the same profession as her father. It would give me inexpressible satisfaction to see her well disposed of, but at this time there appears no likelihood of it, so that the most prudent step I can take is, to remove her to a place where she will be safe from the danger which hangs over her head. I have no ambition to hear of two rivals fighting a duel on my daughter's account, neither do I de-

F 5

fire

fire to be the common talk of every body, who should say that I took delight in having my child surrounded with so many lovers.

May 15, I am, my Lord,
1769, Your lordship's most
obedient humble servant,
R. W——y."

The letter Mi's W——y's father wrote to the supposed parson, was to the following purport:

" Rev. Sir,

" I hope you will not take it ill, that I acquaint you with a resolution I have taken, not to marry my daughter yet. I foresee that many inconveniencies would accrue from it, and therefore both for my own peace of mind, and to obviate all appearances of partiality, I do not intend to give my consent to any man to have her now. You certainly have the best
right

right to her, as being a clergyman, a dignity which surpasses all earthly honours. But the apprehension of what may follow from you, or any other person, marrying into our family at present, makes it impossible for me to acquiesce with your desire. My daughter will very shortly be removed to a place, where she will have no cause to fear being tormented as she is at present.

I remain, with all due respect,

Rev. Sir,

Your most humble servant,

R. W——-y.”

The reader will find it very hard to conceive what different emotions the above two letters caused in the persons to whom they were directed. The d—— was struck dumb with grief, sorrow seemed to have taken up it's perpetual residence in his heart, so much did he abandon himself

to his anxiety. Annabella on the contrary, felt all the joy, and content imaginable. She was too much elevated, to be able to conceal the pleasure she took in the success of her plot. She could not refrain from boasting in public of it, and was so indiscreet as to discover the most minute circumstances. G——, to whom a pretended friend of Miss P——, told the story, resolved to have ample revenge for the insult she had put on him, and swore he would never leave off persecuting her till she sufficiently atoned for it. He sent her a card, ordering her to come to his house immediately. When she arrived, he met her at the foot of the stairs, and conducted her to a private chamber, where both being seated, he began the following discourse.

“ I am much surprized, Madam, that you should presume to act in
the

the manner you do : what authority have you to do in this manner ? you have crossed me in a most weighty affair, and you rejoice at it. I have given you no cause for so doing ; but since you have behaved in this manner, know, that you thereby have lost that title you formerly had to my favour, and which you will never repair, unless you endeavour to make me amends, by doing all you can to bring about a reconciliation with that lady to whom I was on the point of being married, when your plots deprived me of the happiness I was just going to enjoy." Annabella answered only with sighs and tears, till G—— enraged at her silence, extorted from her this reply.

" You cannot but be sensible, my lord, that the love I have shewed on all occasions, could not suffer me tamely to see you clasped in the arms
of

of another; I was distracted at the thoughts of being denied all further access to your house, which certainly must be the case, whenever you marry any other woman, and that caused me to proceed in the manner I have done. I once flattered myself to have the greatest ascendancy over your heart, of any woman in the world, but to my great mortification find I have been deceived. I shall, however, give you no farther trouble, or interrupt your intimacy with any one else, whom you chuse to take to live with either as a mistress or a wife. Adieu false man, for ever adieu. I'll go far from hence, where I'll weep in silence over my hard fate, in some remote place, where it will be impossible to discover my abode." Having said this, she got up directly, and went out of the house, leaving the d--- highly satisfied with the resolution.

G---

G----- having, as he thought, entirely got rid of Annabella, renewed his suit to Miss W-----y with greater ardour and better success than before. Her father now perfectly reconciled to him, received him with the same kindness as formerly, and gave his consent that they should be married in a month's time. An unlucky affair happened which put off the marriage, which was attended with a discovery, that had like to have entirely ruined the d----- in the good opinion of the W-----y family. Sir R-----d was taken ill of the gout, to which he was very subject, and he was so bad, as to leave no room to hope for his recovery; and his indisposition continuing very long, the marriage was obliged to be deferred. In the mean time Annabella, by the advice of a female friend, set on foot the following project, flattering herself that unless
her

her attempt failed, she should most certainly raise such an obstacle in his way, as would not be easily removed. She wrote a letter to Sir R——d, desiring leave to visit his daughter on a business of the greatest moment, and which nearly concerned the future peace and happiness of his family; and therefore begged he would indulge her with the favour of half an hour's private conversation with the young lady.

—This letter signed with a fictitious name, no sooner came to the old gentleman's hands, than after reading it, he ordered the bearer to desire her to come as soon as she conveniently could. She obeyed the summons, dressed herself, and went to Sir R——d's house that afternoon.

—When tea was over, she took a walk into the garden with Miss W——y, and being come into the remotest part of it, where no body could

could overhear her, she gave the d—'s intended spouse a succinct account of every thing that had passed between her and G——, during four years intimacy together; as also how capricious he was, never being able to keep wholly to one woman, but always seeking to betray any one, over whom he had the least influence. She invented a great number of things which she pretended to have heard from his most intimate friends and acquaintance, and in short said every thing she could to prejudice that family, to which he was going to unite himself, strongly against him. The clergyman's daughter listened very attentively to all Miss P—— said, and when she had done speaking, thanked her very politely for the information she had given her, and desired, as a favour, that she would relate to Sir R——d what she had told her. Annabella acquiesced,

acquiesced, and they both went immediately to the old gentleman's apartment, where she repeated all she had said concerning the d— to his daughter in the garden.

He very complaisantly thanked Miss P—— for the account she gave him of his intended son-in-law, and although he attributed her laying open so many of G——'s private transactions to a motive of revenge, so common to women, nevertheless he was not sorry to hear from her own mouth, as he judged, an impartial narration of her lover's proceedings. This scheme would certainly have had the desired effect, had not G——, who heard of it from another quarter, prevented its success, by a stroke of the most refined policy imaginable. He retired to his country house, where he pretended a severe fit of illness, and procured a friend of his to write a letter

letter to Sir R——d, in which he told him, that although some part of Annabella's relation was undoubtedly true, she had notwithstanding mingled some improbabilities with it, which alone were sufficient to render her whole discourse suspicious : that, as he did not expect to survive the disorder he was now afflicted with, he earnestly prayed the old gentleman would condescend to make him happy before his death, protesting that he should then die peaceably ; or, if he should ever get over his present infirmity, he should ascribe the cure to Sir R——d's condescending to comply with his request.

Miss W——y's father was now incapable of resolving what was best to be done. The young lady sincerely loved the d—, and what Miss P—— had told her concerning him, had made so deep an impression on
her

her mind, that she was overwhelmed with sorrow for having entertained a passion for a man, who, if his mistress's veracity might be relied on, would very likely make a very bad husband. She concluded that she ought to submit entirely to her father's determination in this critical posture of affairs, and to do nothing without first consulting him. He was pleased at his daughter's submission in this point, and deferred answering G——'s letter, till he had consulted some trusty friend on this important subject.

Those whom Sir R——d advised with on this occasion represented to him, that although what had been advanced against the d---, might be true in part; yet did they not in the least doubt, but that much had been said proceeding merely out of malice; that they feared he had gone too far to be able to retreat back, and

and therefore they judged it would be most prudent to give his consent to the marriage, as G—— would be obliged to allow her an handsome stipend to live on, in case he should be base enough to part with her, without her doing any thing to provoke him to such a behaviour. That if she was divorced from him, she would be entirely at liberty to pursue her own inclination in the choice of a second husband; and that the nobility might perhaps take umbrage at this seemingly affected delicacy. These reasons appeared too weighty to Sir R——d, not to influence him so far as to acquaint the d---, that he was now resolved to bestow his daughter on him, and that he only waited the recovery of his health to celebrate the nuptials.

G—— now once more reinstated in the old gentleman's favour, waited a few weeks, till his pretended indif-

disposition might be supposed to have left him, and then returned to London; where he went first to the house of Sir R—d, who received him with the highest marks of regard, and told him, that nothing should ever make him revoke the promise he now made his g—, of giving Miss W—— y to him. The day was again fixed for the marriage, and preparations were made to celebrate it with all the splendor and magnificence which the occasion seemed to require. It was, however, obliged to be deferred a little longer for the following reason.

A public rejoicing day being near at hand, a nobleman to shew his loyalty to his sovereign, caused preparations to be made at his country-seat at Hackwood-park in Hants to celebrate a grand festival, in honour of the royal family; to which several of them, together with almost all the nobility

nobility were invited. G—— pre-
 vailed on Miss W——y's father to
 be present at this entertainment, to-
 gether with his daughter; they both
 acquiesced and set out in the d——'s
 carriage.

It would be needless here to give
 the reader a long account of the
 magnificence with which they were
 entertained at Hackwood, let it
 suffice to observe, that every thing
 surpassed their expectations. G——
 distinguished himself on the occasion
 by the singular attention he paid to
 her, who in a few days was to make
 him happy in the possession of her
 charms. It was remarked that he danc-
 ed with her once, when he was
 desired by an unknown person in the
 habit of an old woman to lead up a
 country dance. This unknown
 person as the sequel will shew, was
 no other than Annabella, who had
 procured to be invited, that she
 might

might observe the d—'s carriage without being observed.

Miss P—— took an opportunity of slipping a paper into the hands of her faithless swain; the contents of which were to assure him that this was the last time she ever intended to be present where he was; that she had been prevailed on to come there, that she might be an eye witness of what common report had related of him; and that having satisfied her curiosity though to her great mortification, she should bid him an eternal adieu; and, however difficult, she would endeavour to forget she had ever known him.

This letter caused such a change in the person who received it, that it was visible to every one there something very extraordinary had happened, though nobody could divine the cause; Annabella having
con-

conveyed the epistle to him in so secret a manner, that it was not perceived by any one.

The counterfeit old woman, whose letter had given the d— so much uneasiness, took her leave the next morning, and set out for London. Her absence, however, from Hackwood, did not restore tranquility to G——'s mind. He had long flattered himself that Annabella had entirely banished him from her thoughts; but alas! he found she was resolved to pin herself on him at any rate. What to do he knew not, he at length determined (if she would consent) to marry her to a gentleman, a dependant on him, and to whom he allowed five hundred pounds per ann. as a recompense for having squandered away ten thousand a year in his company. He deferred the execution of what he had meditated 'till his arrival in

G

town, and then sent for the intended spouse of Miss P——, who, being acquainted with the d—'s motive for sending for him, he agreed to his proposal, provided G—— would continue his pension, give him a portion with the lady, and set him down a handsome legacy in his last will; this was all granted, and the day was appointed for the wedding.

It now only remained that G——'s mistress should comply, but this was found to be no easy task.

Mr. S——, the gentleman whom the d— had pitched on for her husband, undertook to persuade her to gratify G—— in his request. His endeavours proved of little avail; she was obstinately bent on refusing the embraces of any other man, after she had been discarded by the d—, and plainly told him it would be to no purpose to urge her any longer to do a thing which was her greatest aversion.

sion. She further added, that it was not out of a dislike to his person, that she gave him this denial, but purely in consequence of a resolution she had taken of never having any man, after the ill usage she had experienced, during the course of her acquaintance with G——, whose ill returns for the love she had always shewn for him, made her entertain so confirmed a hatred for the male sex.

Mr. S—— finding it impossible to succeed, returned to the d——, and told him, how unsuccessful his embassy had been, and advised him to discourse the matter with her himself, as his more persuasive arguments might obtain that which it was next to impossible, could ever be compassed by any one, who had less ascendancy over her. G—— was heartily vexed at this repulse, and to give her some idea of his resentment, he dispatched

patched a footman to her with the following lines.

“ Madam,

“ Your late behaviour at Hackwood, has given me more uneasiness than any thing you could have done, or said to me, concerning me. Will you never know your own interest better? You are an enemy to yourself, and while you flatter yourself that you are doing me a prejudice, you are heaping misery on yourself. I am your only resource; from me you draw your chief support. A tender regard for you, will not suffer me to see you want, but know that I shall endeavour to overcome that love I have hitherto entertained for you, and abandon you to yourself. Come to my house this afternoon, and we'll talk farther on this subject.”

G—
Annabella

Annabella having read the letter, resolved to pay the d — a visit immediately, and accordingly dressed and followed the servant to his master. When she came there, she found G—— in a very ill humour, as indeed she might well expect. He ordered her in an imperious tone to follow him into a private room, and when they were seated, he began to reproach her very severely with the favours he had conferred on her. Called her ungrateful for having so often thwarted him in his designs of marrying some other lady; and withal told her, he was able to make her repent sorely of her proceedings. That if ever she presumed to insinuate herself so far into the acquaintance of any woman, whom he had chose for a partner for life, as to hinder the success of his engagement, she must from that moment look on him as her enemy. He concluded by telling

her, that in case she complied with what he enjoined her, she should always find a friend in him, so far as a handsome allowance for a maintenance reached, which, however, she would be in danger of losing, as often as she acted contrary to what he had just demanded of her. Having thus spoke, he bid her go home, and weigh well what he had said, and in this manner they parted.

Miss P—— in obedience to the d—'s commands, returned to her lodgings, ruminating all the way on his discourse. When she came home, she shut herself up in her apartment, where she was scarce seated, when she fell into a swoon. As there was no one near, she remained sometime in this condition before she recovered. When she came to herself, she began to consider what she had best do; and, as she knew by experience that fretting would be of little service
to

to her in her situation, she resolved to bear her sufferings with as much philosophical indifference as she could ; and seek out some new lover who would behave in a kinder manner, and with more honour than G—— had done.

A few days after, walking one day in the Park, meditating on her circumstances, she was accosted by Mr. S——, whom the d—— had, as we have already seen, pitched on for her husband. They sat down together, and she began to relate what had lately passed between her and her former keeper ; he was greatly surprized, and condoled with her upon it. He told her, however, that if she would accept of him as a husband, he would make her the happiest of women, and that she might have no reason to doubt the veracity of what he said, he gave her the following account of himself.

G 4

“ I am,

" I am, madam, by birth a gentleman, my father Col S—— gave me an education equal to those of much nobler birth. It was his desire I should be a clergyman, and therefore sent me to the university. My inclinations, however, were bent another way, so that after four years spent at Cambridge, I returned to London ; where, by my father's interest, I procured a lieutenancy in a regiment of horse: I here fell into all extravagancies common to the gentlemen of the army ; and my father not being willing to allow me what I thought necessary to defray my expences, I sold my commission, and with the money I got for it, I supported myself as long as I had one shilling remaining. In vain did I apply to my father and relations for succour, they were all of them so highly offended at what they called my profession, that they unanimously determined

determined not to afford me any relief. In this dilemma, I resolved to try what success I might have with my former companions; but on application to them, I found to my sorrow, that all, except one, on account of my present poverty, deserted me. To him I addressed myself, and he having listened attentively to the account I gave him of my misfortunes, generously gave me an invitation to go and live with him, which I accepted of with great joy; and that very day took possession of an apartment prepared for my reception; and I received the most genteel and friendly usage in his house during a year that I lived with him

“ To give you a sketch of his character, he was a gentleman possessed of many natural advantages, improved by education and travel. He had a sound judgment, acute penetra-
 G 5 tion,

tion, and a polite address; his person was amiable, and his wit engaging. Under these excellencies, however, was a base heart. He was a compleat hypocrite, and was judged to be what he was not, by warmly commending what he did not practise. He was thoroughly well versed in intrigues, and too well knew what would pleasure, allure, and captivate the fair sex. He searched into their foibles, then attacked, and seldom failed of accomplishing his designs on their virtue.

“ I might have lived with him longer, had we not differed on my refusing to lend my assistance in a scheme he had formed of debauching a young woman of sixteen years of age; the remembrance of which fills me with so much horror, that I can hardly relate it to you.

“ We were at his country house, at a time when the inhabitants of a neigh-

neighbouring village had a wake; accidentally we passed through the village, in our return home from a ride we had taken round the country. Curiosity made us stop at a house to behold the mirth of the peasants. We had not been there long before he spied out a young girl, beautiful as an angel, and he took so much delight in gazing on her, that his eyes betrayed the design he had already formed in his heart of ruining her. He informed himself of every particular relating to her family, and as soon as we came home, sent her father a wealthy farmer, a letter, to desire he would permit him to pay his addresses to his daughter.

"The old man, surprised at the contents, looked at his daughter, as expecting an answer from her, but she could give no reply, but blushed, He resolved to pay a visit to him, and taking his horse, arrived at our house

the next morning before we were up.

“ Having acquainted us with his business, he said he could not give his consent that his daughter should marry one so much above her, alledging as a reason for his not complying with my friend's request, that the alliance proposed was not consistent with the honour and interest of a nobleman : he added, that his daughter's obscurity, and his lordship's grandeur, her poverty and his wealth, would ill agree. She having no other portion than her virtue, a fortune, though the greatest in the world, of little account in an age of licentiousness. He desired leave to request of him to think no more of her, and to place his affections where they would be more agreeable to his friends, and in the end most pleasing to himself.

“ The

“ The father here left off speaking, and my lord endeavoured to gain his consent, but to no purpose; and he took his leave, saying, he could not agree to so unequal a match, as he apprehended the most shocking consequences of his daughter's future ill usage, not only from her husband, but alas from his relations, who would always be reproaching her with her mean descent. He was, in a word, so obstinate that we could say nothing capable of inducing him to change his sentiments, and he went away, leaving the nobleman highly dissatisfied at his declining the acceptance of his generous and honourable offer.

“ After many repeated solicitations, in vain, to bring the farmer over to give his consent, he communicated to me the design he had of ravishing her, and desired me to help him in completing his villainous scheme.

He

He found me however averse to his proposal, which greatly chagrined him, as he looked upon it, I would not refuse him any thing, as being wholly indebted to him for my subsistence. My honesty, however, was proof against every motive which interest, or the prospect of approaching misery, which I was in danger of falling into, if I disobliged him, on whom was my sole dependence; and I determined not to be in the least accessory to the perpetration of so foul a crime. The result was, that finding he could not persuade me to act conformable to his intentions of seducing the girl, he ordered me immediately to quit his house? I obeyed, and I came to town, with very little money in my pocket, the whole of my finances amounting only to five guineas.

“ I had thoughts at first of engaging to write for some attorney, whom
I had

had formely known in the sunshine of my prosperity, but they all refused to employ me, and every one seemed ashamed of my acquaintance. It was, however, my good fortune to know a Bookseller, to whom I had been very kind in recommending him to all my friends, by which he had got a great deal of money. I addressed myself to him, and he immediately employed me to compile books for him, at a handsome weekly salary. Not long after this, a near relation of mine dying, a large estate devolved to me, and I left my employment, and reassumed my former way of life. In three years time I run through all that had been left me, and I was once more reduced to my shifts. As I had spent the greatest part of my fortune with the d— of G—, he was the only one of all my acquaintance, who shewed me any countenance in my misfortunes;

as

and as I was reduced very low, he had the generosity to allow me five hundred pounds a year, which enables me to keep genteel company, and I am well received by all the nobility. He proposed to me to marry you, and you are not a stranger to the conditions of the marriage. If you are not against the match, I shall esteem it the most fortunate event of my life to be possessed of so valuable a treasure as you are."

Miss P——, who had hitherto listened with the greatest attention to his discourse, told him her resolution of not marrying at all, but that she would live with him, on the same footing, which she had done with G——, and, in consequence of which, she gave him direction where she lived; and from that time they commenced a strict intimacy together. She could give no other reason for refusing to become his wife, than

than that in case he at any time should use her ill, she might be more at liberty to leave him, than if she were married to him. He was satisfied with her excuse, and they visited each other very often.

One day she desired him to relate to her the manner in which lord ——— had proceeded to compass his design of ruining the country farmer's daughter; he answered, that his lordship employed an old procuress, who had been serviceable to him more than once on similar occasions, who came down into the country at his desire on that account. She was to appear in the character of his aunt, and she went along with him several times to visit the honest farmer, who dreamed little of the machination the nobleman used to deceive him.

My lord was now become so intimate with the father of the country girl,

girl, and always behaved with so much good nature and freedom, that the old man almost repented that he was not his son-in-law. The pretended aunt who always accompanied his lordship when he went to the farmer's house, seemed also very fond of the old man's daughter; and one day, when the father was in a gayer humour than usual, she desired the favour of him, that he would permit his daughter to pass a few days with her and her nephew, protesting no harm should come from his indulging her in such a request.

This was consented to, and then began the guilty scene. She lay with the wicked woman whom lord —— had suborned with a purse of gold to betray her; and, in the middle of the night, he entered the chamber where she was, and there perfected the wicked intention he had formed of ravishing her. She struggled, cried

cried out, and did all she could to hinder him. No one came to her assistance, all the servants, who were acquainted with the plot, having received orders not to appear on pain of being dismissed from their places. The next morning he tried all the soothing ways he was capable of to apologize for what had passed. She was however inflexible, and her father when he heard how basely the nobleman had acted, determined to prosecute him for it; but as there is too great an inequality between a peer and a peasant, the cause was never brought to a trial, and the recompense the poor disconsolate father had for the loss of his daughter's honour, which was irretrievable, was an annuity of an hundred pounds a year, which my lord was prevailed on to settle on him during his life, in order to hush up the matter.

Anna-

Annabella, happy in the enjoyment of so complaisant, and good natured a keeper as Mr. S—, had almost forgot the cruel manner in which the d— had treated her, and congratulated herself on the happiness of her present situation. G——, however, found out, to his no small displeasure and mortification, that another was admitted to the same familiarities with her which he had before participated ; and therefore began to contrive a way how to take revenge on her paramour. Altho' he had abandoned her for the young lady whom he now courted, yet he lost all patience when he considered, that there was another whom to all appearance, she loved as much as him. He was, however, mistaken in this point, as Miss P—— had given him repeated assurances that she would never allow any other man those liberties he was permitted to take with her,

her, as long as he continued constant, The d— sent for Annabella and her keeper, and told them both, that on account of their living together, he would instantly withdraw the pensions for which they were indebted to him, unless they immediately parted.

This was a tender point ; they both loved each other, and nothing but the fear of losing their annuities could have ever prevailed either on G—'s mistress, or Mr. S——, to separate. They obeyed the d——, however, so far as not to live together any longer in the same house, though they often saw each other, and had the precaution always to meet at different places, to prevent any suspicion that might arise.

Mr. S——, though he loved Annabella with all the tenderness that a man could entertain for a mistress, yet his income, considerable as it

it was, proved too small to answer all the demands of his charmer. Her extravagance was too great for one who had only five hundred pounds a year to support it. She had as tender a regard for him as he entertained for her, and suffered not a little from the cruel reflection that she must be obliged to make another happy in the participation of her favours, while she was engaged to Mr. S—. She began now to cast about to find some rich person on whom her beauty would make so great an impression, as to induce him to allow her a handsome competency. This she kept a profound secret from Mr. S—, and it was not long before she found one to answer her purpose.

She had been at Mary-le-bone Gardens one evening, in company with some more ladies of her own profession, and, while they were at supper an elderly gentleman accosted them,

them, desiring leave to sit down by them. He appeared charmed with Annabella's pleasing conversation, who, from his behaviour, judging him, to be a man of gallantry, gave him, of her own accord, an invitation to come to her house; and during the whole time they were in the gardens, fought by all the alluring arts she was capable of, to engage herself still more firmly in his affection.

He was married to one, who, in her youth, had really been very beautiful, and age had not entirely deprived her of her charms. She was good-natured, affable, had a large stock of good sense, and being no stranger to her husband's amorous disposition, having several times discovered his intrigues, she could not be supposed to have remained a long time ignorant of the intimacy that subsisted between him and another woman. This gave her great uneasiness

finess, as she was naturally very jealous, though at the same time possessed of every qualification requisite for the happiness of the married state. This made her resolve to persecute Miss P—— to the utmost of her power, whose superior beauty had thus robbed her of her husband.

She formed a scheme of revenge, which had it met with the desired effect, would have terminated in the inevitable ruin of Annabella. She had her spies constantly on the watch, who always kept a strict eye over her husband's conduct.

They brought her word one day, that her husband had made an appointment to go to Windsor with his new mistress, and that he intended to stay abroad three days. This mortifying account furnished her with an opportunity of being an eye witness of what she so much dreaded to see. The day of her husband's intended journey

journey at last arrived, and he was no sooner gone out, than she set out for the same place he was going to in a post chaise, which she had hired for that purpose, and stopped by chance at an inn, opposite to the house whither he and Miss P—— were to come.

She waited their coming near two hours, when to her great satisfaction she at last saw them alight. They were shewn into a parlour, where, so great was her impatience, she soon let them know she had had previous notice of their assignation, by appearing before them. Her husband was thunder-struck, he would as soon have desired to see her dead, as to meet her in that place, when he was in company with a woman of Annabella's character. Mrs. —— allowed him no time to speak in vindication of the step he had taken; she loaded him with reproaches, and

H vowed

vowed she would commence a prosecution against her whom he had chosen for his mistress. The confusion Miss F——— was in on this occasion, cannot easily be expressed. As soon as she was able to speak, she told the injured lady, that, however she might appear to her, she was nevertheless not so culpable as might be imagined, since she had not sought by any means to draw Mr. B——— from the embraces of his wife, and that as he had of his own accord, made professions of love to her, she could not with any colour of reason be blamed for listening to the advantageous proposals he had made her of a genteel settlement, on condition that she would consent to live with him. She then related all the particulars of their first meeting together, and concluded with a solemn assurance of never suffering him any more to visit her.

Mr.

Mr. B—, who notwithstanding all his failings, was a man of the strictest honour, confessed that his intrigue with Annabella was to be attributed entirely to himself, she not having taken any one step to induce him to keep her company. He therefore desired his wife to direct all her resentment to him alone, and not make Miss P— the innocent victim of her revenge. Mrs. B— was after some time pacified, and Annabella giving repeated assurances that she would from that hour break off all further intercourse with Mr. B—, she was perfectly satisfied, and having dined together, they all three returned to London in the same carriage.

Not long after this adventure, Miss P— went one evening to a noted tavern near Covent-Garden, where meeting with the son of a rich East India merchant, her conversation so enchanted the amorous youth, that

H 2 he

He requested she would tell him where she lodged, that he might, as often as his business would permit him, enjoy the pleasure of her company.

Annabella, who desired nothing more than to meet with one who would support her in a genteel manner, did not hesitate one moment to comply with his request, and told him she hoped to see him the next day. He promised not to fail coming, and took an opportunity of slipping into her hand at parting a bank note of fifty pounds.

She had now met with a man she had long desired to find, and promised herself great advantages from his acquaintance. He went to her at the time appointed, and she had the address to make him sign a paper, by which he obliged himself to allow her five pounds a week for her maintenance, besides furnishing in
the

the most elegant manner a house, he had hired for her, and of which he agreed to pay the rent. Miss P—— now resolved to quit all engagements with any other man, and behaved with so much indifference to her former lover Mr. S—— as plainly demonstrated, that she was biassed more by self-interest than by any regard she had ever testified for him. He, who was almost weary of her, was not sorry at this opportunity of entering into a close intimacy with a celebrated courtesan, who from the number of her admirers, was enabled to bestow her favours on whom she liked at a cheaper rate.

Miss P—— now enjoyed all the happiness she could wish. Beloved by the merchant's son, who out of fondness could not deny her any thing she asked. She had now more money at her command than even when she was kept by the D—— of

G——, and in proportion as her income was raised, she grew more and more extravagant in her manner of living. Her new keeper, notwithstanding his great love for her, soon found that his allowance was much too small for her to live on, and being unwilling to give her any more, he determined to turn her off. In consequence of this resolution he sent her the following letter, with a bank note of 100l. enclosed in it.

“ Madam,

“ This is to acquaint you, that our intimacy must end from this time. Had you been more moderate in your demands on me for money, it would have lasted much longer. I send you the inclosed, which is the last favour of that kind you may expect. Make use of it with more prudence, than you usually do of these sort of presents,

“ Your's, L.”

Anna-

Annabella, who did not expect such a stroke from her keeper, who had hitherto shewed her so much tenderness and love, was quite amazed at it. As she had now nothing more to expect from the young East Indian, it was her principal concern to find some other lover on whom her charms could make an impression that might be more permanent. It was not long before her endeavours were crowned with success. She went with other ladies of the same calling to Greenwich, where walking in the park, she was overtaken by a footman, who told her, that he was sent by his master's orders, to request the favour of her company to drink tea, he having something to communicate to her, giving at the same time proper directions where his master lived.

She could not conceive what this message could mean, but however

she interpreted it in her own favour, supposing that fortune had another admirer in her way, whose generosity would make her ample amends for the loss she had sustained of her last lover. She was not mistaken; he had seen her that day, as he was taking an airing on horseback, and from that time he set eyes on her, entertained a desire of possessing her. She was received with all the politeness and complaisance she could have expected, and he having acquainted her with the reason of his sending for her, she immediately gave her consent, and only desired time to settle some affairs, necessary to be adjusted before she quitted London, to go and live with him. This he readily agreed to, and she accepted of his chariot, which he offered her, to return home to town. She soon got every thing in readiness, and at the end of four days, rejoiced her new
keeper

keeper by settling herself in the apartments he had allotted for her in his own house.

He was a captain of a Man of War, and, agreeable to the humour of several of these gentlemen who follow the sea, had always remained single, chusing rather to enjoy the sweets of matrimony in that manner, than be troubled with the inconveniencies, which too often attend that state. His disposition was noble and generous and he never imagined he sufficiently rewarded any woman who continued faithful to him. His new mistress therefore resolved to omit nothing that she thought would afford him delight. He on his part did all that lay in his power to please her, and there was not one enjoyment, which his profuse fortune was able to allow her, which she was not through his bounty made partaker of. They did not however

live long in this comfortable situation, before they were obliged to part on a double account. The first cause of their separating was, his receiving orders to go to Jamaica with a fleet, which was fitting out at Portsmouth, destined for that station, and which was on the point of sailing. The other, and more cogent motive of his parting with her, was on account of having discover'd an intrigue which was secretly carried on between her and the captain of a ship trading to Turkey. It was found out in the following manner: they had for some time held a close intimacy together, and Annabella had never yet indulged him with the favours she had bestowed upon the captain of the Man of War. He had with great persuasion prevailed on her to consent to gratify him in what he had so long, and so ardently wished for, and which she had hitherto always

ways thought proper to deny him, for fear of it's coming to the ears of her keeper. She supped on board his vessel, which lay at Deptford, and being elevated with punch and wine, she yielded to his embraces, a thing she never intended to do, had she been sober. The next morning her keeper, who, on account of her staying out all night, had not been a-bed recollecting where she had told him she was to go and pay a visit, went on board the Merchantman, where, to his great surprize, he found her and her lover folded in each other's arms, and fast asleep. They were soon awaked by his exclaiming "Oh! false ungrateful woman," and they both appeared so covered with shame, that neither of them could utter a word for some time. The captain was the first who broke silence, and spake to the following effect. "You could not have discovered us

in the present situation, had it not been for my servant's negligence in not fastening the cabbın door in a proper manner. As you have seen us together, it will not be improper to tell you what brought us so close along side of each other. I saw the pretty frigate of which you are owner, and could not rest till I attacked and boarded her. If any fault has in this been committed, I only am to be blamed, and not she, who resisted the most violent shocks before she struck, which she did not do, till having poured into her such a broadside of promises, protestations of love, and assurances of treating her in the handsomest manner I could, as she found it in vain obstinately to hold out any longer, she at length yielded."

The captain of the man of War returned a short answer to this, importing, that, " Since he had behaved

haved so honourably as to take all the guilt on himself in order to screen her from the too just resentment he ought to have for her infidelity to him, he should the more readily pardon him; but as for Annabella, no motive whatever should induce him to look on her with the same regard he had done before."

Miss P——, who by this time was recovered of the fright her keeper's presence had caused, attempted to speak in her own behalf; it was to no purpose; he appeared deaf to all the arguments her rhetoric made use of; he was inexorable to her prayers and intreaties to be reconciled, and ordered her to pack up her cloaths, and go away directly. She with great reluctance obeyed, and received no other favour from him at parting than an order to receive 200 l. of a banker in London.

She

She was now once more destitute of a keeper, though not of money. Her stock of that valuable commodity amounted to near 400 l. as she had been very frugal, during her residence at Greenwich. She had also a great number of jewels, and a large wardrobe of rich cloaths.

Many would have esteemed themselves very happy in the possession of so much money, and other valuable effects, but Miss P———, who esteemed all these things as mere dirt, was so lavish in her expences, that at the end of six months her whole stock was reduced to 20 l. She now began, for the first time since her departure from Greenwich, to look out for a new paramour, whose generosity would support her in all the affluence she had hitherto enjoyed. Fortune was once more favourable to her, and pointed out one who was rich enough to give her a better salary

lary than any one else she had hitherto met with. He was a Barrister at Law, very wealthy, and who in every respect was a complete miser, except in the profuse donations he made to his mistress. He was very old, tho' by his behaviour he would fain have been esteemed young. In a word, he was what the vulgar usually stile a fumbler, and would pay an exorbitant price for what he could not enjoy.

Annabella was more delighted with her present keeper, than ever she had been with any one who had kept her company before. He was even so condescending as to permit her to have as many more lovers as she pleased. She did not let slip so fair an opportunity of enjoying the company of a counsellor, who had long solicited her, but whose income was too scanty to afford her a maintenance suitable to her profuse way of living
out

out of it. She, who was far from being of a mercenary disposition, made the Counsellor oftentimes presents out of what the old man liberally bestowed on her, and only desired in return, that he would continue faithful to her. This he promised to perform in the most solemn manner, and for a long time kept his word. He was however one of those whose love after a certain duration cools, and by degrees loaths the object it once adored; he had seen a woman of the town whose beauty had struck his imagination so strongly that he immediately resolved to get acquainted with her, and to that purpose made it his business to look for her in all the taverns and bagnios which are the usual rendezvous of those sort of ladies and their lovers. After a long and fruitless search, he one day accidentally met her in Fleet-street. He saluted her respectfully,
told

told her he had sighed for an opportunity of acquainting her how tenderly he loved her, and begged she would give him the honour to wait on her to the tavern, where he could talk more freely to her, than in the street. She at first absolutely refused to go along with him, but at length pretending to be overcome by his persuasions she followed him.

When they were come to the tavern, he called for wine, and ordered an elegant dinner to be prepared. While they were at table the whole conversation rolled on the subject of love, and he seemed so desirous of enjoying what he had so carefully, and for so long a time sought, that he grew impatient 'till the moment came which made him, as he expressed it, completely happy. They agreed to meet at that house every day, and having made her a handsome present, they parted equally
well

well satisfied ; he for having compassed his design of having a private interview with her, and she, that she had found one, who, as she thought, was able to pay very handsomely for the favours she had bestowed on him, and which he believed no other person was partaker of.

He did not however keep his amour with Miss M—, for so his other mistress was called, so profound a secret, but that it, after a short space, reached the ears of Annabella. She was highly offended at this behaviour, tho' she did not discover any marks of resentment, 'till ocular demonstration confirmed that for a truth, which report had given her room to suspect. She often solicited him to come oftener to her, and gently reprimanded him for the indifference he shewed to enjoy her company, when she was never happy in his absence. His evasive answers
soon

soon convinced her of what she so much hated to hear, and in a violent passion she told him, she would take an opportunity of discovering who she was, who had so great a share in his affection, which she alone ought to enjoy, who had so liberally bestowed the most valuable presents on him : that gratitude at least ought to have made him forsake all other women ; and further added, that could she find out the guilty fair, she would make her suffer severely for presuming to a place in a man's heart, which ought to be entirely devoted to her.

She was as good as her word ; she had her spies constantly abroad, who brought a faithful account of their most minute proceedings. They never met at any place but she knew of it, and she resolved to surprize them, when they least suspected. She had been told that Miss M—— had been
arrested

arrested for a large sum of money due to her mantua-maker, and that not being able to give sufficient bail, she was confin'd in the King's-bench, and that the young Counsellor had been among all his acquaintance trying to borrow the sum necessary to set her at liberty. This Annabella heard with pleasure, she hoped he would also solicit her bounty on this pressing occasion. She was not deceived in her hopes, he asked the same favour of her, pretending he wanted the money to discharge a debt which had been due a long time, and for which, if he did not immediately discharge it, he was in danger of being thrown into prison. She made some difficulty at first in complying, but at length consented to lend him the money.

He had no sooner obtained it, than he flew to the place where his dear mistress was, and shewed her the gold

gold he had borrowed. She was overjoyed at the sight of it, and desired him to send immediately for her creditor, that the debt being cancelled she might quit that hateful place. He obeyed, but did not find the mantua maker at home, and therefore was obliged to stay 'till she arrived, which was not till very late in the evening. This delay gave Miss P—— an opportunity of putting a design in execution, which when effected gave him and his mistress as much perplexity as they had suffered before.

Annabella took out a writ against the Counsellor, and ordered the catchpoles to watch about the prison-door, 'till they should see him and Miss M—— come out, and then seize and carry him to a spunging-house, which being done, they were to bring her immediate notice. This they performed punctually, and
Miss

Miss M—— had the mortification to find him in the same dilemma, from which, with so much difficulty, he had released her. To add to her grief, she was not permitted to follow him, the bailiffs having received orders to hinder her from so doing.

He had scarce entered the officer's house, before Annabella appeared: she laughed heartily at his sufferings, and, with an air of derision, told him she was glad to see him there, commended his elegant taste in making choice of so handsome an apartment, and hoped that he would find it so agreeable, as to continue there a long time. She then changed her tone, and having made a recapitulation of his repeated ingratitude to her for the favours he had received, swore she would never admit of any bail, or suffer him to be set at liberty on any other condition, than that of paying the money down upon the nail.

nail. He tried to soften her by prayers and intreaties, but she was inflexible: he acknowledged his guilt, vowed never more to give her occasion of complaint; she continued inexorable, and at length left him to bemoan his misery by himself.

No friend appearing during the course of a fortnight, who was inclined to assist him, he was removed to the Fleet, where he remained six months, without any other support than what he earned by writing a poem, which he sold to a Bookseller. Miss P—— now began to relent, and resolved to set him free. She accordingly went to the place of his confinement, paid the goal fees, and he came out. She gave him besides a bank note of twenty-five pounds, but would never be prevailed on to admit of his visits.

Miss

Miss P——'s keeper, the old Barrister at law soon after died, and left her an annuity of 500 l. a year, in return for her favours. After this she met with many other adventures, as having been kept by two foreign ambassadors, viz. the Russian and French, the latter of whom she disoblged by suffering him to discover an amour between her and his secretary: to give a particular account of all which would swell this book too much beyond its intended limits, we shall therefore content ourselves with adding two more only of her intrigues, and then proceed to relate what passed between her and the d——— of G—— the last time she was at his house, with the last letter she wrote to him, which we can on no account omit, on account of its authenticity.

She took lodgings in —— street, when she renewed her former acquaintance

quaintance with an actor at one of the theatres, who formerly belonged to a company at Bath, where she first saw him. She was prevailed on to accompany him to one of those pests of society a bagnio, where there ensued the most shocking scene of riot and debauchery that ever could happen, and which had like to have put an end to the life of Annabella. Mr. M—— the actor had invited Miss P—— to sup there one evening, and a friend of his one Mr. D—— was also engaged. They drank freely, and Mr. M—— proposed, that both should lie with her. This she strenuously refused, and accordingly went to bed with Mr. M——. She was not a great while before she went to sleep, and the actor, who kept awake on purpose, no sooner perceived it than getting up softly, he opened the chamber-door, and let Mr. D——

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in, himself going out. Mr. M—'s friend, who was not yet undressed, was too impatient to wait to take off his cloaths, but jumped into bed just as he was. He had no sooner laid down by the side of Miss P—— than she awoke, and finding Mr. M—— was gone, and that another remained in his place, she was going to scream out, when the actor's friend bid her be silent, and yield quietly to his desires, or else he would cause her to repent of her imprudence in calling out, and proceeded to accomplish that by violence, which he could not obtain by fair means. He took a pen-knife out of his pocket, and wounded her in the most shocking manner. He then left her to herself. She lay in this sad condition 'till the next morning, when a surgeon was sent for by Mr. M—; he searched the wounds she had received, and declaring it
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his opinion, that tho' they were not of themselves mortal, yet unless she were in a place where she would not want proper care and attendance, she could hardly survive them; it was agreed on to send her in a chair to Mary-le-bone.

When she arrived she was immediately put to bed, and a surgeon, physician, apothecary and nurse were ordered to attend her. No body was allowed to speak to, or come near her, except those, and she remained ill four months, before she was able even to walk across the room. The ill treatment she had met with at the bagnio, had thrown her into a high fever, and she was light-headed to a degree that the nurse was several times apprehensive she would do some mischief to herself, if not prevented by her being continually kept in the room night and day. At length, however, she recovered by

degrees, 'till at last she became as well as ever. As soon as she was restored to her health, she immediately returned to London, and proceeded to make diligent search after the villain who had used her in so barbarous a manner. All her enquiries were fruitless, he having that morning quitted London, and arriving in a post-chaise at Liverpool, he immediately embarked for America. and was never afterwards heard of. Annabella's acquaintance persuaded her to have Mr. — apprehended and made to answer in a court of judicature, for as much as he had been instrumental in the injury she had suffered: this she declined for several reasons, principally because he was no farther an accomplice in the outrage committed against her, than by having carried her to the bagnio, which she apprehended was not sufficient to condemn him as guilty.

guilty. She feared also that it might reflect too great a scandal on her character, if she was publicly known to have been in company with one, who was looked upon in so ill a light by every body that knew him, that only the most abject amongst all the sisterhood would have any thing to say to him. She therefore judged it most prudent to let the matter drop.

She was very cautious however afterwards, what company she kept, as fatal experience had sufficiently taught her the ill consequences that flow from an intimacy with persons of such abandoned lives as the actor and his friend. To be as far removed from the danger as possible, she changed her lodgings, and hired a first floor in a street near Grosvenor-square, and kept herself very retired, 'till she had, by her enquiries, found out the characters of all

the gentleman whom she had any view of making a lover of, and she remained alone two or three months.

Annabella went one day to her milliner's, and on her return home, crossing the way, her foot slipped, and she falling down, it was some time before she could rise again, having sprained her ankle. A gentleman accidentally passing by where she was, took her up, and conducted her safe to the other side of the way; when being unable to walk home, he procured a chair for her, and walked by the side of it 'till she arrived at her lodgings. He would have quitted her there, but she invited him up into her apartments, saying, she would not suffer him to go away in that manner after having behaved with so much politeness. She further told him, she hoped they would be better acquainted, and even went so far as to give him a general invitation

invitation to her house as often as he pleased.

He had too much penetration not to discover what sort of a person Miss P—— was; her coquettish behaviour was an evident sign of it, and some loose expressions reflecting on modesty, which she uttered, soon gave him to understand that he would be under no necessity of soliciting her twice to grant him the same favour, which she was willing enough to grant at the first asking. He was young, handsome, had a great deal of wit, and, what above every other qualification, pleased Miss P——, his sole pleasure lay in gallantry. He had courted several young ladies in his life time, had promised marriage to several, but had always deceived them, even some who had been weak enough to yield him a full enjoyment of their charms.

He had just attained his five and twentieth year, and was possessed of a large estate in the West-Indies, which had devolved to him by the will of an old uncle, who died at Antigua. His father and mother were no more when he entered the fourth year of his age, so that he was placed at a boarding-school under the tuition of a pious clergyman, whose admonitions he always regarded, 'till, as he grew more in years, the bad example of others had corrupted his morals. He removed to the university, where, instead of pursuing his studies with the same ardour as formerly, he gave himself up intirely to vice; and, shocking to relate, he reproached himself as often as he was told of any wickedness that had been committed, for not having been guilty of the like. He was in short a professed libertine, extravagantly dissipating his wealth,
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and never paying any debt he contracted, unless forced thereto, either by threats of a prison, or an actual arrest.

Miss P—, tho' she was ignorant of his name, was no stranger to his private character, and nothing could have induced her to admit of his visits, but the being at that time destitute of a keeper; for the annuity left her by the old Barrister was too small to supply all her wants. She therefore became his mistress, and she was allowed six guineas a week. He took a country house for her at Turnham-green, caused a new equipage to be made for her, and, in short, indulged her in every thing she could desire,

Annabella however did not know that Mr. ——— was already engaged to marry a young lady, whom he had for a long time been acquainted with. She was the daughter of an

ancient gentleman, who lived at Luton, in Bedfordshire. He had paid his addresses to her, and she had received them in such a manner, as gave him the most sanguine hopes of possessing her, whom, in the transports of his love, he said, was the only woman with whom he should ever enjoy the happiness which results from the union of two hearts; so strongly attached were they to each other. Her father approved of the match and consented to their marriage, which was shortly to be celebrated. He had been at Luton, at the house where his charmer's father dwelt, for a fortnight, on a visit to him, and the old gentleman had gratified the request he had so often repeated of giving him his daughter in marriage and only permitted Mr. T—— to leave his house on account of settling some affairs concerning the settlement he was to make on his intended

intended bride: he returned into the country after having adjusted every thing in a manner agreeable to the noble family to which he was going: to be so nearly related, and the day after was appointed for the completing of his happiness.

The evening before they were to have been married, being alone in an arbour with her, he attacked her virtue, which he had never before attempted, in the following terms. " You know, my dear Maria. that to-morrow is the happy day, which makes you entirely mine. Words cannot express my joy on that occasion; but alas! my love, why should we defer the pleasure we both so ardently wish to taste of one moment longer, let us rather anticipate it, by uniting ourselves now by a stronger tie, than any ceremony of the church can bind us with. In a word, my joy, my life

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my soul's only delight, consent now to crown me with celestial happiness. You cannot, will not, refuse me what I so anxiously beg you to grant. Make me then completely blest with that now, which instant death will deprive me of the power of enjoying to-morrow." The young lady blushed, remonstrated on the impropriety of such an action, and said she would rather die than commit a crime, the remembrance of which would for ever give her pain; and intreated him, by all the powers in Heaven, to desist from his enterprise. All the arguments she made use of to dissuade him from this rash attempt were useless, he was resolved to go through with it, and finding he could not succeed by prayers and intreaties, he proceeded to force. She began to cry out, and some people drawn thither by her shrieks, would have prevented him from executing

ecuting his horrid design, had he not had the precaution to put his handkerchief before her mouth, to stifle the noise she made, and then severely perpetrated the full crime he had long meditated.

When he had thus shamefully gratified his lust, he walked to another part of the garden, leaving her lying on the grass in a swoon. A servant accidentally coming that way soon after he had left her, preceiving her distress, ran to her, and with difficulty raised her from the ground, and placed her on a green bench which was near, and did all he could to revive her. She no sooner came to herself, than a flood of tears plainly shewed her heart was oppressed with grief. He conducted her more dead than alive into the house, where her father was the first person they met, to whom the servant recounted the manner of his finding her. The old gentleman from these circumstances,
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and from the sighs she continually uttered, and the tears which flowed from her eyes, concluded all was not right, that some violence had been offered her, and wished in his own mind that Mr. T—— had not been allowed to be with her alone in the garden. Her being in that condition, and he absent from her, at a time when he ought to have been near to assist her, joined to some incoherent sentences, which she mingled with her sobs, served to confirm his suspicions; and he dispatched a footman into the garden, to tell Mr. T—, that he requested to see him. Mr. T—, conscious of what he had done, had made his escape to London. How great was the grief of the family when they found he was gone! The o'd father wrung his hands, tore his hair, and wept abundantly over his poor daughter, whom he no longer doubted to have been seduced by the gentleman who was to have been

been her husband. He resolved to find him out and punish him severely, for having debauched his daughter, and if possible make him marry her in recompence; and in the mean time he forbore to reproach Maria for her too easy compliance with the desires of a man, who only sought and contrived her ruin,

His search after Mr. T——, was not altogether in vain he met him at a coffee-house in London, and loudly complained of the injury he had done his family, protesting, that if he did not immediately give him his word of honour to marry her whom he had seduced, he would make him obnoxious to all the punishment the law inflicts in such cases; that he was determined to spend the last farthing of his estate in vindication of his daughter's honour and character. Mr. T——, intimidated by the threats used by the father of Maria, consented before credible witnesses to
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fulfil his promise of marrying her and agreed to set out directly for Luton for that purpose. The old gentleman rejoicing that he had (as he flattered himself) gained his point, fearful that any delay might be attended by bad consequences, set out that instant for the country with him, and to make more haste, they went in a post-chaise and four. When they arrived at Luton, they found Maria sick a-bed. She had been indisposed ever since the day in which the fatal accident happened, and the physicians gave little or no hopes of her recovery. She only survived the return of her father and her ravisher three days; the sight of him who had ruined her so damped her spirits, that she visibly declined, and at length submitted to death, which, alas! was the only comfort she had after the loss of that inestimable treasure her virtue. The whole family sincerely lamented their loss, and continually

ally reproached Mr. T—— as the cause of it. He endeavoured to extenuate his crime, by pleading the willingness with which he was come down to marry her; but her father interrupted him, saying:

“ Villain, she who lies dead, is far less guilty than yourself. Repair if thou canst, the loss of a good and virtuous daughter. Thou didst ruin my daughter, despoiled her of her virtue, and made her what she is. Boast not of thy honours nor thy ancestor's greatness, thou hast stained the one and disgraced the other. Kill yourself, and then you will do both me and your country justice. Think not villain, that thou shalt die in peace; vengeance will pursue thee; heaven will pity an injured parent's wrongs, and blast thee for the perjured deed; restore to me my daughter!”

The poor old gentleman could go on no further, a flood of tears interrupted

rupted his speech; he fell on his daughter's body, and for some moments shewed no signs of life. He was no sooner recovered, than he repeated to Mr. T—— what he had already said, and bid him be-gone from his presence immediately.

The ravisher of Maria obeyed, and returned to London, where he was scarce arrived, when he was told a prosecution was commenced against him for the rape he had committed on Maria. He made little account of it, being resolved to obtain a verdict in his favour by the powerful influence of gold, which, to the surprise and astonishment of all who were present at the trial, was given in his favour. Maria's father soon died with grief; and Mr. T—— thought himself happy that he could now without any restraint make overtures of marriage to any woman who was unacquainted with the wrongs Maria had received from him.

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An acquaintance of Annabella's, who was thoroughly well versed in this affair, did not fail to give her a faithful account of every circumstance relating to it, which filled her with so much horror, that she thereupon refused ever to see him again ; returned him the presents he had made her and told him the motives which induced her to act in this manner. He was sorely vexed to find she was not ignorant of that amour, as he feared she would publish it to all those to whom it was as yet a secret, and be the means of precluding him from the affections of any woman, whose charms could make him resolve to betray her virtue. This made him wish he had never had any intimacy with her.

We will now, with the reader's permission, return to the d— of G—, who was still soliciting Miss W——y to indulge him with her hand, which with great difficulty she was prevailed

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ed on to do. The d—'s next care was how to get rid of Annabella, in so secure a manner as to be perfectly easy that she would never trouble him any more. Several projects came into his head, he thought of several methods of gaining a point so essentially connected with his own happiness; but none seemed so feasible as that of obliging Miss P—— to quit her native country, and spend the rest of her days in foreign parts, any where out of the three kingdoms. This, when she became acquainted with it, excited so great a fury in her, that she became delirious. In her cooler moments she wrote several letters to him, representing to him in the liveliest colours, how tenderly she always had, and still continued to love him, that not even his cruel behaviour should ever make her hate him. That his treatment of her was the more unaccountable, as she had formerly experienced the
great

great affection he had for her. She desired him to reflect how kindly he had used her, not like a mistress, but as the wife of his bosom. That he had allowed her the full possession and disposal of all he was worth; that she had never wanted for any thing that could in the least contribute to her pleasure and ease; that she had the sole command of his house, and always had been acknowledged as a mistress by the servants. In a word, she omitted nothing that might stir up a remembrance of their former manner of living; but to her great disappointment, her arguments had no weight with him, and to give her a clear idea of his being firmly resolved on a final separation, he sent her the following letter

“ Madam,

“ On the final difference I had with my lady, I connected myself with you, as one, I thought, whose personal

personal and mental qualifications were such, as would in a great measure alleviate my domestic misfortunes. My expectations, I must do you the justice to say, were perfectly answered, and it would be perhaps difficult even for ill nature to point out a single defect in your truth, and unwearied assiduity to please me; but as I often told you (particularly at our first interview, that I might have nothing in future to charge myself with) that such a course of life was unseemly both in my moral and political character; and that nothing but the necessity could justify the measure; I am now to tell you (that obstacle being removed by the laws) that all our former ties are from this day at an end. I have taken care, my dear friend, (for I will now totally throw by the lover) to make that establishment for you, as will make you easy in your circumstances for life

life ; chargeable only with this proviso, that your residence be not in these kingdoms ; the rest of Europe lies at your choice ; and you have only to send me word on your arrival where you are, and the next post shall carry you your first quarterly payment.

“ Assure yourself that nothing could induce me to act in this manner, but the determined resolution I have taken, now that it is in my power, of speedily entering into chaster connections ; and that I am, and ever shall be, with great esteem and friendship,

Yours, G—— .”

I cannot help varying a little from my subject in this place, to make a few remarks on the d—’s letter, and I hope on account of the shortness of them, the reader will pardon this digression. His grace it seems is so
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very conscientious as to abandon his beloved Annabella, out of a tenderness of conscience, to which he was an entire stranger before; the superior beauty of the divine Miss W—y, made him determine on parting with Miss P——. How greatly ought this act of piety to be extolled! how worthy of imitation! he has set a rare example to posterity, that the most darling vice among the G——y is now totally laid aside and that they are all unanimously resolved to content themselves with the chaste embraces of their own ladies, without running after the daughters of Babylon. What a glorious figure will he make in history? His praise and renown will reach the most remote corners of the earth, and the eastern princes, so famous for the number of concubines which they have, by his laudable example, will dismiss them all, except one, to whom

whom they will swear everlasting fidelity, and I hope observe it with as much sincerity as the noble d— has done, and proposes to do as long as he lives.

We will now return to Annabella, whom G——'s letter had thrown into the greatest distress. It would be a difficult task to give a succinct account of all she said and did on the occasion. She immediately flew to the d—'s where being told by the servants, they could not give her admittance. She brushed by the porter, to his, and all the other domestic's great surprize, and run all over the house till she found G——, who was sitting in a pensive posture in his study. He was much surprized at seeing her there, and with great indignation, asked her, how she dared thus to break in on his privacy, and what means she made use of to enter his house, notwithstanding his

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positive orders to the contrary. To this she replied, that love, incapable of reflecting on what may follow from rash actions, had lent her assistance to conquer the difficulties she met with in her arduous undertaking. That she could not have forborne to approach his presence, howsoever terrible and shocking it must be to her, though she had died in the attempt. That therefore she hoped her dear lord would pardon this seeming want of respect, with which she had presumed to break in upon him in this manner, and take it for the effect of pure love, which would not let her depart the realm, without bidding him a mournful adieu.

To all this moving discourse, he answered only, that it would be more conducive to the happiness of them both, that he should persevere in his resolution; and he advised her to make herself easy in consideration
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of the great domestic happiness that would accrue to him from the connection, he was just on the point of entering into. He ended, by saying, that if she really loved him with as much ardor as she seemed to profess in words, that alone would make her never trouble him any more, nor do any thing that might interrupt his perfect enjoyment of that tranquility of mind, he flattered himself would ensue from his marriage with Miss W——y.

G——'s manner of speaking threw his mistress into fits, from which he with difficulty recovered her without calling any of the servants to his assistance, which he avoided, that they might not be witnesses of the effect which his discourse to Annabella had made on her spirits. As it was in the evening when she went to the d——'s house, the night was now pretty far advanced

ed, and it not being consistent with prudence to let her go home at that late hour, G—— was involved in great perplexity. He feared that either Sir R——d might come in the interim, or perhaps send some of his servants with a message, who seeing Miss P——s in such close conversation with him, would relate to their master the whole of what they had seen and heard. Upon this he called a trusty servant, and he ordered him to cause a private apartment to be prepared for Annabella, to which, when it was ready, he caused her to be conducted, and desired her to depart the next morning as early as she possibly could, that the domestics might not be apprised of her having lain there all night; and to comfort her the more, he further assured her, that he himself would visit her, as soon as ever the family were retired to rest. He kept his word, and notwithstanding all that he had said in
his

his letter to her on the impropriety of his having any further connections with her; she plainly understood from his behaviour, that a regard to his own conveniency, without any other motive, induced him to behave to her in the manner he had done. We must do the d—— the justice to confess, that though his passion for Miss W——-y, was unfeigned, he had however still some affection remaining for Miss P——, as testified by a letter he sent her a few days after with an inclosed bank note of three hundred pounds, in which, after having commended the prudence with which she had behaved at her late interview with him: he told her, that as he was bestowing favours he was of opinion that he ought to make her one, which was not merely complementary, but rather of a more substantial nature than those he conferred on per-

sons to whom he was not attached by the strong motive of affection, as he was to her. He repeated his earnest intreaties, that she would hasten her departure from England as much as possible, and not lay him under a necessity of pursuing other measures in order to accelerate her journey, which he must certainly do, if she failed to pay a prompt obedience to his orders.

This present, however agreeable to her, did not set her heart at ease. She sighed in vain for the loss of him who still remained master of her most tender affections; and the possession of all the rich treasures of the Indies, could not satisfy her for the loss of him. It was however in vain to contend with the torrent (as she called it) of her adverse fortune, and she resolved to submit, how much soever it might cost her; and in the mean time sent him the following letter.

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“ My very dear Lord,

“ For I will not—indeed I cannot—retalitate your coldness, nothing could have surpris’d me more than your letter. It is very true you did insinuate on our first connection, that it did not totally agree with your principles and situation, as you were then married. I admitted every force of this reasoning, knowing how, in one of your exalted character, appearances should be supported.

“ But, my lord, little did I think when that marriage was dissolved, and the odium which attended our connections consequently so, that your affections could so mechanically abate, as in an instant thus to sacrifice the lover to the sordid considerations of interest or public opinion.

“ I can readily place your desire of parting with me to the love of variety; but my lord, what am I to say to
that

that part of your letter, wherein you insist (as I shall forfeit every future claim to your munificence) on my leaving these kingdoms? Am I to attribute it to malevolence or ill-nature. No, my Lord. the actual suffering of this severe sentence (cruel as it is) shall not wring from me this confession. I will call it the lapse of the heart, the fault of constitution, or any other softer name that will cover the person I hold dearest in the world, from the unnatural (yet too often associated) titles of *seducer* and *prosecutor*.

“ Mistake me not, my dear lord, that I want to plead a remission of this sentence from the cruelty of being driven from my native kingdom tho I think this should have an effect on your feelings) I urge it on a principle as much more refined, as it is distracting; that of being separated for ever from the *mar*, not the *lord* of my *choice*,

“ *Though*

“ Though my pride won't permit me to sue for the recovery of a heart, which I find is so obstinately detached from me ; yet, my lord, suffer me this poor consolation to live in the same kingdom with you. Give me some time to mitigate a passion you first inspired me with ; and though I find I must bid adieu to the transports of love, let me hope for the calmer delights of friendship, and do not at once overwhelm me with all the agonies of positive — neglected separation.

“ You inform me in the close of your letter, *of your speedily entering into chaster connections.*—I am resigned.—And may your future lady love like me but never meet with such returns!—May every hour of yours be heightened by prosperity, and may the happiness of your domestic character ever keep place with your public one, Prays

The unfortunate.”

Here

Here end the memoirs of Miss Ann. P——s, who went through a vicissitude of fortune, which many not endowed with her fortitude would have sunk under the weight of. If this books meets with the approbation of the public, the author will probably reassume the task of presenting them with some more worthy their notice. In the mean time he humbly craves their kind acceptance of what he has wrote purely for their amusement.

F I N I S.

